FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Soviet Union

Vol III No 049 13 March 1987

USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

Bovin Examines Latest Euromissile Proposal AA 1
[MOSCOW NEWS 8 Mar]
Group Faults Reports on USSR Arms 'Violations' [Lavrentyev] AA 2
USSR Always 'Ready' to Suspend Testing AA 2
[Chernyshev in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 3 Mar]
New U.S. Directive Intends to 'Wreck' ABM Treaty AA 3
[Bogachev]
U.S. ABM Interpretation Distorts Truth AA 4
[Mozgovoy in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 7 Mar]
PRAVDA Assesses Missile Curb Prospects, Problems AA 6
[Kotov, 8 Mar]

WORLD & REGIONAL ISSUES

Pyadyshev Holds Foreign Ministry Briefing 12 Mar CC 1
Euromissiles Proposal CC 2
U.S. Radiation Protest CC 3
Reagan's Report to Congress CC 3
Shevardnadze S.E. Asian Tour CC 4
Pact Ministers To Meet in March [Prague Television] CC 4
Shevardnadze Sends Message to Nonaligned Meeting [AFP] CC 5

UNITED STATES & CANADA

IZVESTIYA on Role of White House 'Image Builders' A 1
[Shalnev, 28 Feb]
Army Paper on Links Between Reagan, 'Truman Doctrine' A 6
[Ponomarev in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 8 Mar]

CHINA

PRC Industrial Management Reform Problems Viewed B 1
[Maltsev, Oleynik in EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA Mar]

NORTHEAST ASIA

TASS Reports Conclusion of Shultz' Asian Tour C 1
DPRK Proposes High Level Talks With South Korea C 1
PRAVDA Hails Proposals [Barakhta, 10 Mar] C 1
Official Says USSR To Participate in Olympics C 2
[Seoul YONHAP]
CPSU Party Worker Delegation Visits DPRK C 3
[PRAVDA 4 Mar]
Razumovskiy Receives Visiting MPRP Delegation C 3
[PRAVDA 7 Mar]

SOUTH ASIA

Admiral Chernavin Pays Official Visit to India D 1
Arrives in India [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 3 Mar] D 1
Meets Indian Defense Minister [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 5 Mar] D 1
Completes Visit [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 8 Mar] D 1
Returns to Moscow [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 10 Mar] D 2
Trade Documents Signed With Pakistan 6 Mar D 2

SOUTHEAST ASIA & PACIFIC

Shevardnadze Interviewed on Asian Visit [Vientiane] E 1
Reportage on Shevardnadze Visit to SRV E 5
SRV Press Cited E 5
Shevardnadze Arrives in Hanoi E 5
Meets Nguyen Co Thach E 5
Allegations of 'Russians' on Mindanao Viewed [Biryukov] E 6

EASTERN EUROPE

SFRY's Krivokapic on Post-Congress Progress [PRAVDA 4 Mar] F 1
Bulgaria's Dyulgerov Speaks at TU Conference [Sofia TRUD 23 Feb] F 3
Poland Signs TU Agreement, Chairmen Speak [Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU 24 Feb] F 5
Cooperation Documents Signed With Hungary [IZVESTIYA 8 Mar] F 6
BCP Delegation Studies Ideological Work [PRAVDA 4 Mar] F 6
Sokolov Greets GDR's Kessler on Army Jubilee [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 1 Mar] F 7

WESTERN EUROPE

Gorbachev Exchanges Messages With Swedish Writer G 1
Council of Ministers Congratulates Helmut Kohl G 2
TASS Notes Start of NATO 'Wintex-87' Maneuvers [Balebanov] G 2
France Using Kerguelen for Nuclear Tests [Vavilov] G 3
Greenland Elections in May Over U.S. Radar G 4
W. European Reaction to Gorbachev INF Proposal G 5
Mitterrand: French Deterrent [Kovalenko in IZVESTIYA 6 Mar] G 5
Mitterrand Clarifies Stand G 6
'Discordant' Note in France [IZVESTIYA 5 Mar] G 7
Chernyshev on British View G 8
IZVESTIYA on Thatcher Remarks [Krivopalov, 6 Mar] G 9
FRG Politicians on Proposals [Yakhontov in PRAVDA 7 Mar] G 10

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Jordan's King Husayn Receives Envoy Sytenko [IZVESTIYA 9 Mar] H 1
PRAVDA's Demchenko Interviewed by Syrian Paper [Damascus AL-BA'TH 5 Mar] H 1
Deputy Chairman Songayla's Libya Visit Reported [cross-reference] H 4
KUNA Notes Arrival of Military Mission in Moscow [Kuwait KUNA] H 4
Joint Cultural Cooperation Program Signed With Kuwait H 4
TASS Reviews Trade Projects With Arab States H 5
YSP's Al-bid Views June Conference, Bilateral Ties [PRAVDA 12 Mar] H 6

IZVESTIYA Notes Soviet-Syrian Consultations [13 Mar] H 6
Moscow Radio Notes Executions in Tehran Prison H 6

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Songayla Delegation Ends Visit to Ghana J 1
[IZVESTIYA 12 Mar]
Afro-Asian Committee Members Arrive in Mauritius J 1
Koshelev-led Delegation Visits Mozambique J 2
Benin Party Delegation Visits Moscow J 2
[PRAVDA 3 Mar]
U.S. Said Ready to Expand Chad Presence J 2
[PRAVDA 11 Mar]

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

POLITICAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

'Tied Vote' Brought Gorbachev to Leadership [AFP] R 1
Appointments of Government Officials Reported R 1
Gorbachev Attends Women's Day Celebration R 2
Additional Attendees Noted R 2
PRAVDA Carries Solomentsev Conference Speech [22 Feb] R 3
Solomentsev, Others Address Gorkom Officials R 7
Voroshilovgrad Obkom Plenum Accepts Criticism R 8
[PRAVDA UKRAINY 3 Mar]
Georgian Premier Discusses Natural Disaster R 11
[SELSKAYA ZHIZN 25 Feb]
300 Moldavian Komsomol Officials Dismissed R 12
Yeltsin Addresses Moscow Komsomol Conference R 12
Solovyev Attends Leningrad Komsomol Conference R 13
[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 28 Feb]
Kazakhstan Stiffens Penalty for Kidnapping R 13
[KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA 12 Mar]
Politburo on Cooperatives, Artists, Party Control R 14
Zalygin: No One Intends To Publish Solzhenitsyn R 14
Journal To Publish More 'Forgotten Authors' R 15
Voznesenskiy on 'Revolution by Culture' R 16
[SOVETSKAYA KULTURA 21 Feb]
Theater Workers Union Elects Leadership R 18
[SOVETSKAYA KULTURA 5 Mar]
New Theater Director To Utilize 'Restructuring' R 19
Correction to Kazakhstan Revokes Broadcast Award R 20

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Talyzin Addresses Planning Leaders' Course S 1
[IZVESTIYA 8 Mar]
Standards Committee Chairman on Quality Control S 1
CSA Figures on Public Consumption Funds Noted S 2
Official Reports Joint Enterprise Agreements S 3
Briefs: New Arctic Seaport S 3

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Murakhovskiy Cited on Agricultural Cooperation [Paris LE FIGARO 11 Mar] T 1
CSA Reports on Seed Availability, Quality T 2

SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS

Scientist Explains PION Project in Space U 1
Velikhov on Neutrino Radiation Discovery U 1

MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

Marshal Kurkotkin Interviewed on Army, Navy Day [SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA 22 Feb] V 1

BOVIN EXAMINES LATEST EUROMISSILE PROPOSAL

PM1?1505 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 10, 8 Mar 87 p 3

[Aleksandr Bovin Article under the rubric "The World on My Personal Computer": "Break through"]

[Text] The Soviet disarmament initiatives have of late become an integral part of the world political scene. They have received enthusiastic welcomes, have been spurned, but there's no denying that they have produced a stir. They have been an impetus to the thought that -- especially after Reykjavik -- they could pave the way towards a nuclear-free, non-violent world -- a goal considered impossible and unattainable until only quite recently.

And every time Moscow made a step forward, sparked hopes, politicians appeared who put a break on the process. After Reykjavik, for example, the "package" theme came into play. It was maintained that, had it not been for the "package", and had it not been for the "artificial" bundling together by Gorbachev of all issues, things could have been speedily resolved to mutual advantage.

What at fault here is the word "mutual". It would not at all be an advantage for the Soviet Union if its opponent deployed the Star Wars system. And it's a disadvantage not because we would have nothing to oppose it with, but because we would hate to spend money and resources on yet another offshoot of the arms race. And for this reason it was important for us in Iceland to focus world public opinion on SDI as being the key obstacle to agreement. It was important for us to show up all the drawbacks, all the destabilizing stuffing of the President's initiative. Judging by the scope of the debates around SDI, these objectives have been largely reached.

The new stage of political struggle after Reykjavik, the backward movement of the American administration, have prompted a speedier action on specific avenues of disarmament. Last Saturday afternoon, head of the Soviet delegation at the Geneva talks Yuliy Vorontsov called his American counterpart M. Kampelman to tell that the USSR was taking "Euromissiles" out of the package, meaning that the Soviet and American medium-range missiles stationed in Europe. We reiterated our resolve to destroy these missiles. On Monday these proposals, together with a number of attending measures, were put on the negotiating table.

How come? Readers who have come to equate consistency with immobility in politics would be asking. Are we again meeting imperialists halfway? Yes, we are. We are going to because the very meeting is no less advantageous to us than to them. The package is, if you will, not a strategy, but foreign policy tactics. Its content cannot be constant and immutable for all times. Vladimir Lenin used to caution against the making of ultimatums, because ultimatums deny all flexibility to those who lay them down. Ultimatums, the demands of "all or nothing at all" shackle thought, prevent one from sensing changes and making amends in line with these canges. All the necessary changes in position, the natural change in tactics, are viewed as a retreat in the presence of ultimatums. So, a really consistent policy geared at reaching specific goals rather than at slogans always tends to leave some space for manoeuvre. Learning this is also part of the reconstruction process.

And the last thing. The building and deployment of hundreds of new missiles in Europe must have cost a huge amount of money. And if we agree to destroy these missiles: Why then were they built? Why were they deployed? It is not only me who is asking these questions. It would be very good to have competent answers to these questions.

GROUP FAULTS REPORT ON USSR ARMS 'VIOLATIONS'

LD130912 Moscow TASS in English 0753 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Washington March 13 TASS -- By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Lavrentyev:

The U.S. Arms Control Association has analyzed the contents of the presidential report to Congress containing accusations levelled against the Soviet Union of its alleged violations of the arms control treaties. The main conclusion drawn from the study is that the Reagan administration continues deliberately misconstruing the state of things in that field. The seriousness of the charges made by the White House calls for serious proofs, the report says. Yet instead of that, the presidential report speculates on "possible", "probable" and "supposed" violations. This looks very much like an invention, since lies even on small matters are a source of distrust in the administration's stand as a whole.

Characteristically, there were quite enough new facts last year bearing out the Soviet Union's commitment to its obligations as regards arms control, and none to the contrary, the report says. Therefore, it is not accidental that the administration has again used hackeyed fabrications, by rewriting them from old papers. The Soviet Union is accused even of violating the SALT-2 treaty which was unilaterally broken by the United States.

The far-fetched accusations are aimed at undermining the whole process of arms control and are an attempt at camouflaging the reluctance of the White House to make progress in reducing weapons arsenals. While distorting the known facts, the report says, the administration is at the same time disregarding the fact that the Soviet Union enjoys well-deserved prestige in the international arena precisely due to the strict observance of its commitments.

USSR ALWAYS 'READY' TO SUSPEND TESTING

PM081739 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Mar 87 First Edition p 3

[Military observer V. Chernyshev "TASS commentary for KRASNAYA ZVEZDA": "A Warning to the Lovers of Nuclear Adventures"]

[Text] For more than 18 months silence reigned at Soviet nuclear test sites. Then, suddenly, a nuclear explosion rang out in the USSR. This did not, of course, come as a surprise to anyone in the world. On 18 December last year, the Soviet Government, extending its unilateral moratorium on all nuclear explosions for the fifth time and again offering to enter into full-scale talks on a total nuclear test ban, warned the United States that the Soviet Union would resume nuclear tests after the first U.S. explosion in the new year.

However, the present U.S. Administration failed to respond in a positive manner to the USSR's appeal to join its peace initiative and did not turn the moratorium into a bilateral one. Proceeding with its nuclear test program, Washington has already conducted two nuclear explosions in the current year. In all, 26 nuclear explosions rang out at the U.S. test site in Nevada while the Soviet moratorium was in force. Each one of them provided new evidence of the R. Reagan administration's total disregard for the demands of the world community contained in UN General Assembly resolutions, for the appeals of the Nonaligned Movement, for the proposals of the Delhi Six, and for the views of parliaments and the international public.

At the same time, as commentaries in the foreign news media indicate, people in the world understand the explosion of the nuclear device conducted in the Soviet Union was a step forced upon us, a consequence of the irresponsible U.S. policy. In conditions where the United States is proceeding with the implementation of its nuclear test program with the aim of developing fundamentally new kinds and types of arms and building up nuclear arsenals, the Soviet Union could not, of course, indefinitely display unilateral restraint. Otherwise a situation might arise where the continuation of the unilateral moratorium could inflict serious damage on the Soviet Union and its allies. After all, in rejecting the moratorium, Washington is clearly gambling on obtaining military superiority over the Soviet Union and the socialist countries.

Through the implementation of the "comprehensive program for rearming America" the Pentagon intends to increase the U.S. offensive potential to 20,000 nuclear charges by the early nineties. In 1986-1989 alone it is planned to produce more than 17,000 new nuclear munitions of varying yield and purpose. The creation of "third generation" nuclear weapons is being forced and space strike arms including nuclear-pumped x-ray lasers are being developed under the SDI program. R. Bowman, director of the Institute for Space and Security Studies, stated frankly: "We are tired of parity. The only way to regain political leverage is to obtain absolute military superiority."

What an illusion! Yet for the sake of this illusion nuclear explosions are reverberating in Nevada, for the sake of this illusion the U.S. Administration is planning to spend another 325 billion dollars on the production of nuclear arms alone over the next 5 years.

To prevent Washington officialdom from realizing this aim, to maintain the strategic balance of forces and to ensure security, our country was forced to end its unilateral moratorium.

However, as the USSR Defense Ministry spokesman emphasized at the briefing, the Soviet Union will, in its test program, proceed exclusively from the minimum necessary for fundamental research, national economic purposes, and testing of hardware and arms for resistance to the destructive forces of a nuclear explosion including resistance to the means currently being developed under the U.S. SDI program. Yet the Soviet Union does not intend to copy the U.S. nuclear program; only a minimum of tests will be conducted for the purpose of testing charges to maintain the strategic parity with the United States in terms of nuclear charges.

At the same time the resumption of nuclear explosions by the Soviet Union by no means signifies that we are abandoning our resolute struggle for a total test ban. All Soviet proposals for ending nuclear explosions remain in force. "If the United States decides to end nuclear tests," the 18 December 1986 Soviet Government statement said, "the USSR is ready, on any day or month, to suspend, on the basis of reciprocity, the implementation of its test progam."

NEW U.S. DIRECTIVE INTENDS TO 'WRECK' ABM TREATY

LD112150 Moscow TASS in English 2122 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS -- TASS political observer for military problems Vladimir Bogachev writes:

On February 4 U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger signed a new political directive on U.S. military operations in space. Its full text was immediately made classified information.

The short non-classified version of the document published by the Pentagon today openly proclaims the U.S. course towards preparations for combat operations in near-earth space. According to the directive, space has been recognized as a sphere in which combat operations can be staged with the aim to ensure U.S. national security, the same as they can be staged on the ground, in the sea and in the atmosphere.

The directive made it clear that the Pentagon was going to create a potential of anti-satellite strike weapons in space which would permit to attack directly Soviet satellites. Washington is obviously aiming at undermining the letter and spirit of the treaty obligation not to hamper the functioning of the satellites which keep a look-out on the observance of agreements.

The new directive of the Pentagon reiterated in no uncertain terms the turning down by the U.S. of the goal of striving for the prevention of the arms race in space proclaimed in a joint communique after the Soviet-American summit in Geneva and demonstrated once again Washington's intention to wreck the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

The ABM Treaty is the last, still effective agreement prohibiting to hamper the work of observation satellites of both sides. In the opinion of influential American specialists, the disrupting of the work of those observation systems would create a catastrophic uncertainty in U.S. military planning. Observation satellite systems promote the maintaining of strategic stability, because they do not permit the other side to deal a sudden disarming blow. It is for this reason that U.S. Congress which usually yields to the demands of the Pentagon is resisting today its plans of testing U.S. anti-satellite weapons.

Congressman George Brown said that control over anti-satellite systems served U.S. interests better than the arms race involving anti-satellite weapons.

U.S. ABM INTERPRETATION DISTORTS TRUTH

PM111145 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Mar 87 Second Edition p 5

[A. Mozgovoy article under the rubric "Facts Versus Lies": "Washington's Subterfuges"]

[Text] And so, official Washington's line of introducing the so-called "broad interpretation" of the USSR-U.S. Treaty on the Limitation of Anti Ballistic Missile Systems (ABM Treaty) has become an actual fact of political life. Administration spokesmen have confirmed THE NEW YORK TIMES report that President Reagan has ordered the U.S. delegation in Geneva not to examine any proposals which could prevent the United States from adopting this most "broad interpretation." Washington has sent its emissaries to allies in Europe and Asia for consultations on this question. The Department of State has been given orders to complete its analysis of the legal aspects of the ABM Treaty's "broad interpretation" by early April.

On what is the "broad interpretation" of the ABM Treaty based? In particular, the White House is trying to present matters as if "the Russians themselves were unwilling to impose limitations on the creation [sozdaniye] of ABM systems based on new principles of physics" like laser installations, directed energy weapons, and so on. Moreover, Washington refers to Agreed Statement "D" which, it claims, "approves the testing of any ABM systems provided they are based on other principles of physics." Here we have the grossest distortion of the truth! According to [Agreed] Statement "D," [Mozgovoy uses cyrillic letter "D" which is fifth letter in Russian alphabet] the research, development [razrabotka], and testing of future [perspektivnyy] ABM means or their components are allowed in areas strictly limited by the treaty and only at stationary land-based installations (in other words, not at all in outer space!). This is far from everything. If either of the sides plans to deploy such new systems, it cannot do so without preliminary consultations with the other side and without introducing the appropriate agreed amendments to the text of the treaty.

Washington's farfetched arguments testify only to the U.S Administration's evident unwillingness to observe the letter and the spirit of the ABM Treaty and its desire to demolish it. It was the U.S. disagreement to consolidate the ABM Treaty provisions and its manic commitment to SDI that prevented the taking of radical steps in Reykjavik toward the reduction and eventual complete liquidation of nuclear arms. SDI, as M.S. Gorbachev stressed, stood in the way of terminating the arms race and getting rid of nuclear weapons.

This is also being pointed out by numerous sober-minded U.S. figures. "At present," P. Warnke, former head of the U.S. delegation to the SALT talks, noted, "the question stands as follows: Either 'Star Wars' or arms control." Statements along similar lines have also been made by former U.S. Secretary of State C. Vance, Senators G. Hart and W. Proxmire, and eminent U.S. scientists.

Could it be, however, that this opinion is held only by those who are seen across the ocean as liberals, and if not actually as "reds," then at least as "pinkos?" No, disagreement with SDI is also expressed by figures who have always ranked among the "hawks." "The SDI program, which was designed as a 'means for getting rid of nuclear weapons,'" General A. Haig, former secretary of state in the Reagan administration, remarks, "has now become the main obstacle in the way of an unprecedented nuclear arms reduction. " Former CIA Director W. Colby is even more categorical. "The attempt to create [sozdat] a strategic defense has a destabilizing nature," he wrote in THE NEW YORK TIMES. "The only way to defend our country in the event of a nuclear war is to prevent such a war. The ABM Treaty plays an important role in the successful implementation of the policy of preventing war by curbing the arms race and creating conditions necessary for progress in the cause of limiting offensive forces. This is a document of fundamental importance, which has done more than any other agreement to diminish the threat of nuclear war."

Of course, Haig and Colby dream as much as Reagan and Weinberger of establishing U.S. hegemony in the world, but not by placing the existence of the United States in greater jeopardy. After all, the course of the present U.S. Government of implementing SDI and torpedoing the ABM Treaty is a policy which will bring to the country nothing but complications and misfortune. As the Soviet leadership has declared on numerous occasions, should a full-scale implementation of the "Strategic Defense Initiative" materialize, the USSR would find effective means to restore equilibrium.

PRAVDA ASSESSES MISSILE CURB PROSPECTS, PROBLEMS

PM071939 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[Boris Kotov "International Review"]

[Excerpt] Has the Ice Begun to Move? [subhead]

Is it possible that the ice has at last begun to move in the question of practical nuclear disarmament? Let us not be too hasty with an unequivocal answer. There are good reasons for asking this question. They are to be found in the uncharacteristically unanimous positive appraisal which M.S. Gorbachev's 28 February statement has received throughout the world.

The importance of the proposals put forward in this statement is self-evident: The Soviet Union has decided it is now possible to separate the problem of medium-range missiles from the other disarmament issues, to take it out of the Reykjavik "package." It has proposed that a separate agreement be concluded on this problem without delay.

The proposed solution has resulted in a great number of reactions. "A Most Important Peaceful Challenge to the West"; "The Best News Since Reykjavik"; "Remarkable News"; "Europe Applauds Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev" -- these are some relatively characteristic headlines from the Western press.

Is this not going too far, is this not excessive optimism, unjustified euphoria? After all, it is well known how difficult and complex the process of achieving fruitful accords in the sphere of disarmament is. However, this gamut of reactions is a reflection of life itself, of the reality of the passionate desire of broad circles of the international public to build a nuclear-free world. Another point: Everyone can see there is not just a basis for such a step, but real accord.

As is known, it was agreed at the USSR-U.S. meeting in Reykjavik in October of last year that the USSR and the United States would eliminate all their medium-range missiles in Europe over a period of 5 years. Over the same period the number of Soviet missiles in this category deployed in the Asian part of our territory would be reduced to 100 warheads on the understanding that the United States would be allowed to retain the same number of medium-range missile warheads on its national territory.

It is planned that as soon as an agreement on the elimination of Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles from Europe is signed, the USSR would, after consultation with the governments of the GDR and the CSSR, withdraw from these countries the enhanced-range operational-tactical missiles which were deployed there as a countermeasure to the deployment of the Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in West Europe. As for other operational-tactical missiles, the USSR is ready, without delay, to enter into talks about their reduction and complete elimination.

On this occasion the governments of virtually all interested states, including NATO countries, responded to the USSR initiative without delay. Thus, late in the evening of the same day, 28 February, it was officially stated in Bonn that "the FRG Government welcomes the proposal of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, that a separate agreement be concluded with the United States on the elimination of medium-range missiles from Europe... The government hopes that the talks between the USSR and the United States will make swift headway."

Apart from the FRG, U.S. medium-range missiles are deployed (or earmarked for deployment) on the territories of Britain, Italy, Belgium, and the Netherlands. All these countries also approved the USSR proposal within the first 2-3 days. The official circles of other NATO countries -- Spain, Luxembourg, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, and Canada also responded in a positive spirit.

Washington's official response was businesslike in form, at least it did not contain any of the tiresome references to the "propaganda nature of the Kremlin initiative." At a White House briefing on Tuesday 3 March U.S. President R. Reagan welcomed the USSR proposals. He announced that the U.S. delegation at the USSR-U.S. talks in Geneva on nuclear and space arms had been instucted to submit a draft treaty "on the implementation of the agreed aims and on the basis of the specific formulas which we agreed with Mr Gorbachev at our meeting in Iceland in October last year."

Thus, as a result of the Soviet initiative, the Geneva talks have received a new impetus. New specific Soviet proposals have been submitted and U.S. proposals have also been introduced. In the final stage of the seventh round of the talks, the groundwork has been laid for a practical solution of the medium-range missile problem.

Will the decisive breakthrough be achieved in Geneva? Time will tell. It is obvious the preconditions for this exist. However, another thing is also obvious today. It would be wrong to take too rosy a view of the situation. Not a few obstacles and difficulties are already looming on the path toward an agreement.

What Is Needed Is Political Will [subhead]

It would have been a miracle if the forces of the military-industrial complex and the political "hawks" who are in their service on both sides of the Atlantic had accepted what is happening without lifting a finger. Well, the miracle did not happen. The signal for attack came from the U.S. defense secretary's department. According to the U.S. press, it was from here that a malicious propaganda "canard" was launched: "If all the U.S missiles were withdrawn from Europe, a number of hidden (?!) Soviet SS-20 missiles could be used to blackmail NATO."

This outageous "handout" was taken up by a number of press organs. One of the contributors to THE NEW YORK TIMES writes about "threatening consequences for Nato," ascribing these fears to "West European leaders." "In Europe the first wave of excitement is giving way to concern that the U.S. missiles might be removed" -- this is the disinformation launched by one of the U.S. television networks. It is echoed by another network, which claims that the Soviet initiative "may throw a lot of light on the existing imbalance in conventional arms in Europe which is in favor of the Soviet Union," and so on and so forth.

The retiring NATO supreme allied commander in Europe, U.S. General B. Rogers, also hastily launched a "rearguard action." "It would be madness for the West," he declared, "to agree to the missile 'zero option.'"

Several French newspapers have joined this chorus. Their "super-cautious" or, more correctly, negative assessment of the Soviet proposals was clearly inspired by French Foreign Minister J.-B. Raimond. It was evident from his hasty statement that Paris is not exactly enthusiastic about a nuclear-free Europe, that it is not pleased at the prospect of the elimination of the Euromissiles which has emerged. [paragraph continues]

A day later President F. Mitterrand of France and Prime Minister J. Chirac made some amends by declaring that "the elimination of medium-range missiles from Europe is in keeping with the interests of France and the world." Even though the burden of their own nuclear potential is pulling some Paris politicians backward, we would like to hope that common sense will prevail on the banks of the Seine too.

In addition, other difficulties are beginning to emerge on the path of a USSR-U.S. agreement. Not just the U.S. allies in Europe, but the Washington administration itself is currently being subjected to pressure from extreme right-wing militarist forces. Furthermore, attempts are being made to exploit the difficult situation in which it finds itself as a result of the unabating scandal around the secret arms deliveries to Iran.

This is one interpretation for the "warnings" to the administration offered by certain observers on the pages of THE WASHINGTON POST. Mentioning the "desperately weakened positions" of the White House, they advise "Reagan and his new team of advisers" not to fall into the "trap" which, they claim, the Soviet proposals represent. They also offer a recipe for thwarting the talks, namely the problem of "monitoring and verification" [kontrol i proverka] which has been used for this purpose many times before.

Will the administration give way to this pressure? I do not rule this out. Did not the same thing happen in Reykjavik when the U.S. President proved not to be free to act, to adopt final decisions?

I also believe something else. The pressure from the right is now increasingly being countered by the forces of reason which are concerned about mankind's fate. A clear reflection of this fact is the mood in the U.S. Congress. It was expressed, for instance, by R. Byrd, leader of the Democratic majority in the Senate, in a letter to President Reagan. He asked the head of the administration to issue directives to the members of the U.S. delegation at the Geneva talks with a view to achieving a "fair agreement which would lend itself to verification [proverka].

A bitter struggle is under way. The stakes are high. A real opportunity has emerged for the practical implementation of nuclear disarmament measures, for the reduction and elimination of a substantial proportion, a whole class, of nuclear missiles. The realization of this opportunity could mark the turning point in the cause of creating a nuclear-free world on our planet.

The Soviet Union has again demonstrated its will to resolve the problem of nuclear disarmament despite all the difficulties and artificial obstacles. This calls for reciprocity from the United States. It calls for common sense, determination, and firm political will also on the part of the United States. [passage omitted on International Women's Day and human rights in the West]

PYADYSHEV HOLDS FOREIGN MINISTRY BRIEFING 12 MAR

LD121820 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1625 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, 12 Mar (TASS) -- A briefing on current international issues was held today in the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Center. Speaking at the briefing, B.D. Pyadyshev, first deputy head of the International Information Department of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stressed that the visit by E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of foreign affairs, to the countries of Southeast Asia is perceived abroad as a concrete and businesslike manifestation of the Soviet leadership's new approach to the problems of that extensive zone, as set forth in the Vladivostok speech by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

It was announced that M. Armacost, U.S. under secretary of state for political affairs will visit Moscow to continue the exchange of views on regional problems. Taking part in the discussions from the Soviet side will be Yu.M. Vorontsov, first deputy minister of foreign affairs, and other ministry officials. It has been agreed in principle that M. Armacost will be received by the USSR ministry of foreign affairs. As is known, the USSR recently put forward a whole range of concrete proposals for a just political settlement of the most acute regional conflicts and for strengthening regional cooperation in the name of peace and development. The hope was expressed that the American side will also take a constructive stance with regard to these affairs.

Commenting on reports about U.S. deliveries of a large batch of "Stinger" missile units to the [DRA] dushmans, the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs representative noted that such a step by the U.S. Administration not only exacerbates the hotbed of war in the Middle East; at one time, the United States posed the question of taking measures to prevent portable antiaircraft units getting into the hands of irresponsible groups who might use the weapons to carry out acts of terrorism, including attacks on civilian aircraft; but the United States also is directly supplying arms to these bandits, who are well-known for their acts of terrorism. The latest U.S. antiaircraft weapons are filtering from the dushman camps into other regions through sluice gates opened by the U.S. Administration. In this way, the U.S. authorities' immoral act is spurring on international terrorism.

Attention was drawn to the fact that there has been another outburst of anti-Sovietism in official Washington speeches and documents over the past few days. A low standard of morality and ethics is displayed by the Presidential report "on Soviet nonadherence to arms control agreements" and the U.S. President's recent radio address on regional conflicts.

In answer to a request to comment on the U.S. State Department's statement that February's nuclear test in the USSR resulted in a violation of the nuclear test ban treaty, it was stressed that the blast, which was carried out in the USSR after a lengthy interval, was within a strict framework and in observance of all safety requirements. By disseminating many versions, are the authors reckoning of concealing the U.S. policy of military preparations, which was the reason for the breakdown of the moratorium?

The USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs representative made a statement in connection with the Soviet proposal for the complete elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe.

Questions were answered.

Euromissiles Proposal

LD122047 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1830 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] At a briefing on current questions of international policy, which was held at the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center, a statement was read out by a spokesman of the USSR Foreign Ministry in connection with the Soviet proposal on the complete liquidation of medium-range missiles in Europe. We broadcast the text of that statement.

The positive reaction by other states to the Soviet proposal to conclude a separate agreement on the complete elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe and a sharp reduction in them to 100 warheads for the USSR in the Asian section and for the United States on their national territory is being received with satisfaction in the Soviet Union.

Of course, the reaction abroad has been varied, but it all points to the fact that the Soviet initiative is being seen as a real opportunity to give impetus to the whole process of limiting and reducing armaments.

The Soviet delegation at the talks on nuclear and space armaments in Geneva has a clear instruction to work vigorously towards working out a specific agreement in as short a time as possible.

As is known, the Soviet proposal is on the conference table. It contains all the necessary parameters, on the basis of which the working out of a reliable agreement on this issue is possible. The Soviet delegation has been instructed to display the necessary flexibility and constructive approach in a bid to achieve such accords on each aspect of the future development that would best correspond to the general task of removing all medium-range missiles from European territory.

It is from this angle that the Soviet delegation approaches the examination of the draft proposal from the American side, and that is whether this draft has as its objective reaching an agreement on the complete elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe, and as quickly as possible, too. The Soviet side proceeds from the premise that a would-be agreement should be a substantive, well-considered and thoroughly balanced document, taking into account the interests of both sides and European security.

The Soviet delegation intends to devote special attention to question of verification [kontrol]. This is understandable. We wish to be completely confident that measures of verification and monitoring [proverka] reliably ensure the process of fulfilling commitments according to the agreement and guarantee the nonviolation of the commitments assumed by the sides.

The Soviet side approaches with understanding the concern of certain West European countries over the issue of tactical missiles and is prepared immediately to start talks with the clearly defined objective of reducing and totally eliminating this type of missile.

As soon as an agreement is signed on eliminating Soviet and American medium-range missiles in Europe, the Soviet Union, in coordination with the governments of the GDR and the CSSR, would withdraw its extended range tactical missiles from these states.

Our position is clear and definite. The Soviet side views with hope the possibility of solving the problem of eliminating medium-range missiles in Europe and is prepared to work towards this in every way. We expect the same constructive approach from the United States of America as well.

U.S. Radiation Protest

LD121549 Moscow TASS in English 1538 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 12 TASS -- "A Soviet representative in Washington did not accept a protest by the U.S. Department of State which contends that radioactive sediments had been ejected into the atmosphere as a result of a nuclear test in the USSR in February of this year and reached an area outside of the USSR," said Boris Pyadyshev, first deputy head of the International Information Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"I would like to stress in this connection that we in the Soviet Union treat such statements by the other side with maximum attention and maximum seriousness," he went on, "but so far it appears to us that the data provided by the American side is not sufficiently weighty, is not convincing. And for this reason we did not accept the already mentioned protest."

"I would like to note that in the past, regrettably, there have been numerous instances of groundless accusations by the United States against the USSR about all sorts of 'violations'. I believe that this time too we are dealing with a similar case," Boris Pyadyshev said further. "In any case I would like to stress in no uncertain terms that nuclear experiments in the Soviet Union are conducted within a strict framework with the observance of all safety requirements, and this is the main point. Considering the present political mores in the Washington circles it can be conjectured that this statement is an attempt to cover up the policy of the United States directed at intensifying military preparations, a policy that causes worldwide indignation and precisely which has made impossible a further continuation of the Soviet nuclear moratorium".

Reagan's Report to Congress

LD121552 Moscow TASS in English 1528 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 13 TASS -- The latest presidential report "on Soviet noncompliance with arms control agreements," the fifth one sent to Congress, differs little from the previous ones. It contains the same set of falsifications, speculatory evaluations of the Soviet position and outright lies, said Boris Pyadyshev, first deputy head of the International Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR. He spoke at a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists here today.

One can see how low the standards of morality and ethics are in Washington quarters today, the spokesman said, if only from the report's hint that the USSR might have violated its moratorium on nuclear tests that lasted 19 months. The Presidential statements of the past few days also contain uncivilized language. For instance, Reagan's radio address on regional conflicts which is filled with insults and invectives.

In circulating such false reports and statements Washington is trying to cover blunders in its foreign and domestic policies, Pyadyshev said.

Shevardnadze S.E. Asian Tour

LD121520 Moscow TASS in English 1518 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 12 TASS -- The tour of countries in the Pacific and South East Asia by Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and foreign minister of the USSR, was a major foreign policy act that evoked response beyond that region, a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman told a briefing for journalists here today.

He observed that the visit to three countries of Indochina clearly revealed the intention of the USSR, Laos, Kampuchea and Vietnam to strengthen peace and security in the region.

As to the Kampuchean issue, the Soviet spokesman said, the USSR believes that the Kampuchean leadership's efforts to start talks with various Khmer opposition groups or individuals (on condition that the criminal Pol Pot clique be excluded) constituted a positive step towards achieving national reconciliation in the country and normalizing the situation around Kampuchea.

Shevardnadze's visit to Indochina was of great importance for the further consolidation of all-round cooperation between the USSR, Laos, Kampuchea and Vietnam. Its results would have a positive effect on the international situation in South East Asia, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Pact Ministers To Meet in March

LD121903 Prague Television Service in Czech 1830 GMT 12 Mar 87

[No video available]

[Excerpt] Boris Pyadyshev, a spokesman for the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs, announced today that a regular sessijon of the Warsaw Pact Foreign Ministrs' committee would take place in Moscow in the last 10 days of March. The Ministers will be discussing, in particular, matters connected with the Soviet proposal to eliminate medium-range missiles in Europe. They will also concentrate on more energetic progress in the process of halting the arms race, reducing conventional weapons and equipment in Europe, and achieving a ban on chemical weapons. They will also exchange views on the most successful and constructive ways of winding up the Vienna follow-up meeting. [passage omitted]

SHEVARDNADZE SENDS MESSAGE TO NONALIGNED MEETING

PA130416 Paris AFP in Spanish 0301 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Georgetown, Guayana, 12 Mar (AFP) -- In a message sent through Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to the Nonaligned Movement's Coordination Bureau meeting in this capital, the Soviet Union today praised the Nonaligned Movement's efforts to protect the interests of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In a communique presented during the conference by Guyanese Foreign Minister Rashleigh Jackson, Shevardnadze said that the Soviet Government "highly values the genuine right of Latin America and the Caribbean for independent development in peace and security, without foreign interference."

The message added that the region's problems, even the smallest, influence the international situation in general.

According to the communique, "the world community is seriously concerned about the continued tension in Latin America and the Caribbean, the continued violations of international law, and the mounting foreign debts of the area's countries."

"The Soviet Union backs all the Latin American movements that aim at finding mutual political solutions for the Central American problems, creating zones of peace and cooperation in the southern Atlantic and the Caribbean, and attaining a peaceful resolution for the Malvinas conflict."

"We understand the just demands of the region's countries to establish a new international economic order in which these countries' genuine interests in the foreign debt problem can be taken into consideration."

In addition, the Soviet Union pointed out its interest in continuing to hold relations with the countries of the region. These relations would be based on equality, nonintervention, and respect for sovereignty and the inalienable right for these countries to attain economic development in their own way.

Finally, the message stresses the Soviet Government's certainty that the Nonaligned Movement meeting, which concluded today, will foster the unity of the Latin American and Caribbean peoples in their search for solutions for their problems and the strengthening of the movement.

IZVESTIYA ON ROLE OF WHITE HOUSE 'IMAGE BUILDERS'

PM041636 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Feb 87 Morning Edition p 6

[Aleksandr Shalnev article: "White House, 7 pm"]

[Text] Washington and Moscow -- Every weekday evening, at around 1 minute to 7, the White House comes to a halt. Conferences stop, typewriters fall silent, the trays of simple food brought from the White House "canteen" are pushed aside.

The VDU screens go dark; the television screens come to life: The White House is watching the evening news which begins at 1900 on the three main commercial stations -- ABC, CBS, and NBC. The programs are watched simultaneously: Many staffers have two or even three sets in their offices. Others, using remote control so as not to have the trouble of constantly jumping up, switch over from channel to channel, picking up the essentials, whatever directly concerns the President and his immediate entourage.

Everything picked up is recorded on video tape, taken down in shorthand, and typed out. By the following morning the President and his key advisers find on their desks a report summarizing what was said and shown on television the night before. Just in case.... Regardless, the transcript will be studied, analyzed, and discussed in detail. These transcripts, which also include extracts from the earliest editions of America's best known newspapers, are a kind of table of success for the more than 500 White House staffers who are involved, according to press reports, in "building the image" of the U.S. President, meaning the image of his administration. On the basis of these transcripts judgment is pronounced on how successfully -- or unsuccessfully -- the image was fashioned on that day and how it looked to the tens of millions of television viewers for whom, judging by the results of public opinion polls and research done by psychologists, television is the sole source of information about events in the world and in the United States itself. The source of information and the source of evaluations of this information.

As Marvin Kalb, a leading NBC television commentator, observed not without irony, "for the current administration the working day begins with a decision on how it should look at the end of the day -- on the 7 o'clock news." Kalb may have been speaking sarcastically, but he was not exaggerating. At the conferences which are held every day in the White House at 0800 -- true, without the President. That is too early for him, he does not appear at his place of work before 0900 -- three questions are examined: Did the television yesterday evening and the press this morning work in the way the White House wanted in terms of "developing the image" of the administration? What happended overnight in America and in the world? How to present what happened to America and the world?

Here I foresee the question: Are you not trying to claim that the mass media, which, as everyone knows, are not government media in the United States, are in the administration's power in terms of their coverage of particular topics or events? The answer: They are in its power, and to a greater, a far greater degree than might be imagined. There are a great number of means of exercising this power. I will describe just one.

...On the wall of a small but very confortable office in the west wing of the White House, three paces from the President's Oval Office, a plaque in a wooden frame strikes your eyes. The plaque bears the inscription: "Don't tell us how to organize the news, and we won't tell you how to cover it." [paragraph continues]

Journalists accredited to the White House presented this plaque to Larry Speakes, who was the President's press secretary for nearly 6 years, until he resigned a month ago. The words in the frame are a phrase once uttered by Speakes in the heat of an argument with reporters.

In the heat of argument one often blurts out things one would prefer to keep to oneself. I remember Speakes was also embarrassed when he blurted out the phrase about "organizing the news." The indignation which could quite naturally have been expected from representatives of an "independent," nongovernmental press did not ensue. Why not? Because, probably, Speakes was not exaggerating, he was telling the truth, so there was absolutely no point in disputing his words, getting indignant, or making a fuss. They preferred to frame his words.

So how do they organize the news? Mainly through information leaks. A high-ranking official of a previous administration once observed that "Washington is the only city in the world where the speed of rumor is faster than the speed of light." There are masses of leaks. The information is of all kinds, including secret. Sometimes they try to present the biggest leaks as evidence of how democratic U.S. society is. But anyone who studies this problem objectively will doubtless come to the conclusion that it does not have much to do with democracy. Particular information is made public for quite different purposes. As THE NEW YORK TIMES put it, "many people in the administration and the Congress do this. It is done either to help yourself and your friends, or to harm your enemies, or to propagandize or ruin some politial initiative or other."

How many leaks there have been under this administration, and what leaks! I do not recall a single case where this was done with a view to asserting the Americans' democratic right -- the right to know. That was not why Robert McFarlane, at that time the President's national security adviser, provided a journalist from NBC television with "top secret information" about secret arms deliveries to Nicaragua by the Soviet Union, information whose absolute falsity was confirmed literally a few hours after the "sensation" came out on television. That was not why Reagan himself publicly revealed secret information to the effect that the National Security Agency was involved in intercepting diplomatic correspondence -- the President was guided not by the desire to enable Americans to learn the truth, but by the desperate need to attempt at least partially to justify the bandit bomb raid on Libya. That was not why McFarlane again, as I learned from my U.S. colleagues, leaked to the press a few days before the Geneva summit meeting a letter from Defense Secretary Weinberger, a letter which was addressed to the President and contained the demand "not to give in" to the Russians. Indeed, the letter itself contained nothing that was not already known. The Pentagon chief's views are no secret. By organizing the leak and endowing the letter with the force of sensation by this means alone, the White House achieved what it wanted: It prepared the ground to justify the highly unconstructive position taken by the Americans on arms control questions, and especially on the question of the "Strategic Defense Initiative."

U.S. television news programs open with news, not commentaries. Americans start reading their newspapers on the front page: The first page is devoted practically entirely to news. Commentaries and analytical articles are placed inside newspapers of many pages. For many Americans their reading of the newspapers is confined solely to studying the reports on the front page. Hence the conclusion long drawn by publishers and editors: Success depends largely on how interesting and attractive the front page is. That is a lever which the administration skillfully utilizes.

Having carefully studied how the White House apparatus operates and how journalists accredited to the White House work, I can draw the clear conclusion: If a correspondent presents news and comments on it in a way which does not suit the administration, he can consider himself a lone wolf.

No, you will not be cut off from the White House press corps, but from now on you will only receive whatever information is available to all reporters, including foreign reporters, Soviet ones among them: ordinary press releases, the texts of statements and messages, and all that kind of thing. The jam, the icing on the cake, the stories that give rise to front-page sensations, you will no longer get. You will be deprived of exclusive stories. No longer will a presidential adviser come up to you in the corridor, call you aside, and whisper in your ear something that will send your editor into indescribable raptures. No longer will you be invited to top secret briefings which are regularly held for the "chosen ones" by top White House officials, and moreover those very officials who, in public, are fond of emphasizing their hostility toward the press in general and White House reporters in particular. In other words, you will be deprived of the kind of news customarily published with reference to "sources in the administration" -- without giving names or titles. Without that names you are no use to your editor. "I have been in that situation a couple of times," one U.S. colleagues told me, asking me, of course, not to mention his name. "I admit, the situation was very painful for me."

Let us take another example. Without the anonymity. Annette Lopez Munoz. White House reporter for Radio Marti. Former reporter. She was thrown out of the White House an hour after asking President Reagan "inconvenient questions" about his administration's policy in Central America at a press conference. It is not for me to judge what made Annette, a Cuban emigre by extraction and employee of an anti-Cuban radio station financed by the U.S. Government, ask inconvenient questions. What matters is the image which the White House propagandists had been trying all day to fashion, the image of a direct, honest administration concerned about the Nicaraguan people's well-being, collapsed before the eyes of tens of millions of television viewers who were watching the press conference "live." Annette was thrown out of the White House, and a few days later she was dismissed from Radio Marti.

...I asked Gore Vidal, a major U.S. writer who writes with special interest about historical personalities, whether he wanted to write a book about the current President. The answer was: "No, that is not a subject. If you tackled it, you would have to write not so much about Reagan himself as about the Americans and how they gave themselves Reagan... Reagan is a television invention."

Vidal is always acute in his observations and his comments. Is his comment about a "television invention" true? It is, of course, open to debate. After working as a White House correspondent for several years, I have no doubt that never before have the essence of politics and its form, the what and the how, been so clearly equated.

...Breaking off in mid-word, the President starts a conversation, by direct space link, with the astronauts in orbit. He talks to them from the auditorium where the members of both chambers of Congress have assembled for a joint session to hear the President's traditional annual "State of the Union" message. The conversation between Capitol Hill and space is followed by the whole of America. A direct television relay is in progress. That was the plan. The space linkup did not take place: Just over a minute after takeoff and a few hours before the President was due to deliver his speech in Congress, the "Challenger" exploded with seven astronauts on board. [paragraph continues]

That would not have happened, Professor Michael (Rodzhin) of California University believes, if the President had not "needed a show worthy of the President. Surely NASA could provide such a show?" As is well known, at the moment of the "Challenger's" launch there were many indications of defects of some kind. Postponing the launch meant wrecking the show planned by the White House propaganda team of which the President was to be the hero. The launch was given the go-ahead.

One very high-ranking White House staffer told me that "in taking some decision on questions of foreign, domestic, or economic policy, we decide simultaneously -- I repeat, simultaneously -- how to cover it in terms of propaganda."

Simultaneously? Not usually. Usually questions of propaganda coverage are decided before questions of content. Perhaps the most striking example I met with during my time with the White House journalist corps is that of how Washington prepared for USSR-U.S. summit meetings. The first conference held in the White House within the framework of preparations for the Geneva meeting, a conference held at a very high level, was practically entirely devoted to... propaganda questions. On hearing this, astonished, perplexed reporters surrounded Larry Speakes.

Question: Could you not explain something about this conference... Was it mainly concerned with policy questions, or more with questions of "public relations"?

L. Speakes: It was on "public relations" questions.

Question: "Public relations"... Does that mean selling something, pushing something?

L. Speakes: That is not how we usually put it...

That is what they mean and what they do, I would add.

As for the Reykjavik meeting, this is what the weekly TIME wrote: "Before setting off for the Icelandic capital, Reagan tried out... a couple of new jokes on his staffers. The jokes were so 'earthy' [prizemlennye] the staffers protested. Reagan laughed heartily... The President's preparations for the meeting were minimal."

The mention of jokes will be nothing new to anyone who observes the White House today. The jokes are a part, an integral and very important part, of the image created by the administration, an image of irrepressible optimists who know -- cannot fail to know -- the solution to any problem, however complex it may be and whatever it may involve, domestic or foreign policy, the image of people who know the way out of any situation, however difficult. (Incidentally, the President's biographer, Garry Wills, recently reported a very interesting detail: It appears there is in the White House apparatus a staffer whose function is "to find one joke a day to put Reagan in a good mood."

I remember that on that day in March 1981 when Reagan was seriously wounded, he dredged up about a couple of dozen choice jokes. He trotted them out in the casualty ward of the hospital where he was taken from the scene of the attack. Each joke was carefully recorded by his aides and... offered to the representatives of the press. The calculations were accurate: The President's popularity soared.

Well, his fortitude and self-possession at that time were indeed enviable, and I do not mean to be ironic in describing this scene in the hospital at the capital's Georgetown University. I am simply trying to understand, to calculate where, when, and at what stage of the current Presidency this process of substituting jokes for reality began in earnest, a process justified, perhaps, in the sphere of everyday life, but becoming grotesque and, moreover, by no means harmless when applied to big politics.

A question: If, instead of rehearsing jokes which would look good on the evening television news and on the front pages of tomorrow's newspapers, the White House had taken a proper, thorough look at arms control questions on the eve of Reykjavik; if not the form, but the essence had been put first; if the prepations for the meeting had been oriented not toward short-term gains -- and very dubious ones at that -- for Reagan personally and his entourage, but toward long-term, genuine advantages for America, the Soviet Union, and the whole world -- how would the meeting have ended?

Alas, we shall never know. We can only observe that the President went to Reykjavik empty-handed and that, as is stressed in the report "Reykjavik and U.S. Security" published the other day by a congressional committee, "the President unfortunately came back from the talks empty-handed too." "The commmentaries of both the Soviet side and the U.S. side after the meeting," the report notes, "convinced the world potentially impressive progress on arms control was thwarted as a result of President Reagan's stubbornness over SDI." That is no joke....

...The walls of the narrow, crooked -- it is very twisty -- corridor that leads from the room where the daily open briefings are held to the Oval Office is hung with large, skillfully executed color photographs. Here the President is receiving an African prime minister, here he is meeting with congressmen, here he is with one of his sons, here he is discussing some documents with his aides. The photo exhibition -- let us call it that -- is constantly updated. By looking at the photographs hanging in the corridor you can sometimes find out far more than you are told at the briefing. When, on one occasion, a photograph hanging in the most prominent place had Robert McFarlane right in the background, it was clear to many people that something was up with McFarlane. Indeed, a few days later his resignation as the President's national security adviser was announced.

It is said that a photographer who, through an oversight, allowed a photograph to appear in the exhibition showing Reagan looking tired and all of his 70-plus years earned himself a reprimand. The photo was speedily replaced. On the new one the President was smiling and young, and generally looking the way that the White House "sculptors" want him and his policy to look on the front pages of the newspapers and on the 7 o'clock news.

As David Hoffman, a very observant reporter of THE WASHINGTON POST, observed, "predicting the White House's future actions is an art, not a science." This means that the administration's future actions cannot be predicted. Like its present actions, they are concocted from short-term images designed for outward effect and changing like the photographs in the White House exhibition.

You will agree this represents a difficulty. A considerable difficulty. After all, predictability is the core which prevents policy from collapsing, especially foreign policy, the policy of interstate relations; the core which gives that policy stability, purposefulness, reliability. The stability and reliability which may not look sensational on the television screen, but which are essential in real life.

ARMY PAPER ON LINKS BETWEEN REAGAN, 'TRUMAN DOCTRINE'

PM101137 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Mar 87 First Edition p 3

[Article by Manki Ponomarev, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA observer: "The United States: Policy With No Future"]

[Text] It was 4 years ago. The Oval Office in the White House was ablaze with blindingly bright floodlights, television cable snaked across the floor, movie cameras whirred incessantly, and importunate cameras clicked. They were all focused on the head of the Washington administration who, with a fitting expression on his face, was putting his signature to the Presidential proclamation: "I hereby proclaim 1983 the Year of the Bible in the United States."

Americans took this proclamation as an appeal for charity. In vain the unemployed hoped for long-awaited work, the homeless for a roof over their heads, and the hungry for daily bread. The "Year of the Bible" had been proclaimed for a quite different reason. It was required by U.S. ruling circles to add fuel to the fire of the next -- how many already? -- anti-Soviet campaign.

The signal was given by the President himself. To do this he used the platform of the annual National Association of Evangelists Congress -- a highly influential religious organization in the United States. On 8 March 1983 R. Reagan, arrayed in the garb of guardian of biblical morality and prophet of "divine will," delivered a long speech to the congress participants.

There is no need to set out this speech in full at this point -- enough has been said by the head of the White House over the years since then. His statement at the time that, in his opinion, communism and communism alone is a "source of evil in today's world," was, and still is, of fundamental importance. The founders and followers of Marxism-Leninism, the speaker claimed, "reject all morality" and, consequently, any method is fine and acceptable in the struggle against them, that is, against the Soviet Union, other socialist states, and forces of progress throughout the world. Primarily military methods and methods using force. So by claiming his policy "pleases the Almighty," the President was reiterating U.S. claims to break the military-strategic balance, bring about the USSR's unilateral disarmament, and gain military superiority.

Even UPI has described R. Reagan's speech in Orlando as "a revival of the worst rhetoric from 'cold war' times." This speech was by no means a simple exercise in eloquence. It clearly revealed the same motives which had been apparent in a speech by the head of the White House in British Parliament almost 1 year previously. It was then he divided the world into two parts: "the forces of totalitarianism" which are supposedly responsible for all of mankind's conflicts and misfortune, and the "forces of freedom" -- the "noncommunist West," and primarily the United States; it was then that he called for a "crusade" against socialism; and it was then that he announced that strength and military might are the sole "prior condition of peace." "Let us hesitate no longer! Let us use our power to put Marxism-Leninism on the ash heap of history!" -- the President cried, addressing British MPs.

Why did the Reagan administration consider it necessary to revive the old specter of anticommunism and laud it to the skies? [paragraph continues]

Why was it necessary to instill the idea that the USSR is supposedly the "embodiment of evil" and the "devil incarnate" to claim that socialism has no place in this world? Because U.S. ruling circles regard it as the main obstacle in the way of fulfilling their imperial ambitions. Reagan's "crusade" against communism and against the Soviet Union and other socialist states has become the basis of Washington's foreign policy activity. Its chief aim is to ensure readiness in every way possible to destroy socialism and exact social revenge in the world arena.

We will come back to the means and purpose of U.S. ruling circles' pursuit of social revenge. For now it should be noted that it would be wrong to award first prize to the current head of the White House for pathological anticommunism and rekindling the "cold war." He has had predecessors in this field. Take President H. Truman, for example.

Forty years ago U.S. ruling circles took a sharp turn away from cooperation with the USSR in the fight against the common enemy in World War II and toward a policy of confrontation which became known as the "cold war." This turnabout was based on the desire to resolve the historic dispute between the two world systems and the two ideologies by means of force.

The doubtful honor of announcing "cold war" against the forces of socialism and progress belongs to W. Churchill (cf. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 5 March this year). One of the first practical steps in the "cold war" was the proclamation of the so-called "Truman Doctrine."

The "Truman Doctrine" is the U.S. foreign policy program set out on 12 March 1947 by the head of the White House at that time. Referring to the "communist danger" supposedly looming over Greece and Turkey, H. Truman urged U.S. Congress, in the interests of "U.S. national security," to allocate $400 million in "aid" for the Greek and Turkish Governments. What is more, it was frankly admitted that not only these countries but the whole world constitutes the "sphere of U.S. vital interests." Claims to U.S. "world leadership" were made. Even at that time it was clear that there were things more important than peace and the United States intended to use its monopoly on nuclear arms as the chief means of blackmailing the USSR.

The "Truman Doctrine" was therefore a program of U.S. imperialist expansion and a program for "rolling back" communism. Its practical implementation led to broad U.S. interference in the internal affairs of Greece, Turkey, and a number of other countries with the aim of using their territory as a bridgehead against the USSR and other socialist states and also to penetration by U.S. imperialism into regions of the Near East and the east Mediterranean. The foundations were laid for imperialism's bloc strategy of encircling the Soviet Union and its friends and allies with a chain of military bases and for conducting subversive operations against national and social liberation forces, even going so far as direct acts of aggression termed, in accordance with the latest U.S. terminology, "low intensity conflicts."

The "cold war" did not bring laurels to its commanders. In the end even the most frenzied forces of imperialist reaction were forced to admit its futility and curb their desire to "put an end to socialism" by force. Detente became the dominant factor in international relations for a while. This did not last for long. The desire for social revenge gained the upper hand over common sense.

At the end of the seventies and beginning of the eighties U.S. ruling circles once again made a sharp turn away from detente and toward total confrontation with the USSR and other socialist community states, including military confrontation. The 10-year "comprehensive program to rearm America" was adopted, which envisaged building up the latest first strike offensive nuclear missile weapons, creating space-based strike weapons, and ensuring further qualitative and quantitative growth in arsenals of chemical and conventional weapons. According to Pentagon calculations the implementation of this program would allow the United States to bring its strategic nuclear potential up to 20,000 nuclear charges by the beginning of the nineties. In 1986-1989 alone, it is planned to produce 17,000 new nuclear munitions of different yields and for different purposes. Work on the "Star Wars" program is now being conducted at an accelerated pace. The President quite recently signed a special national security directive aimed at circumventing the ban imposed by the 1972 ABM Treaty on the testing of ABM systems.

The driving force behind U.S. ruling circles' adventurist policy and their massive militarist preparations is still their thirst for social revenge and the restoration of their lost imperial positions. At the same time U.S. imperialism now places particular emphasis on trying to prevent the Soviet Union from carrying out its planned transformations, hinder these plans, and wreck them by means of the arms race. For the sake of this aim, it is doing its utmost to maintain international tension and preserve the conditions in the world which would make it possible to continue portraying the USSR as the cause of all evil and misfortune.

The degree of cynicism which can be reached by the proponents of this course was shown by a meeting of the U.S. right wing at the end of February -- a regular conference of conservative political action committees. One of the participants, (Dzh. Uiller), said: "Our aim must be to destroy the entire Soviet empire. Only then will the threat it poses be removed once and for all." He was full of praise for the "Reagan doctrine" -- a doctrine of neoglobalism which, according to him, includes struggle against the "Soviet empire" "on its periphery," "on its borders," and "inside the empire." Struggle "on its periphery" means active U.S. military aid to rebels in such countries as Afghanistan, Nicaragua, Ethiopia, Angola, and Mozambique. Struggle "on its borders" means putting pressure on socialist countries and inciting disturbances in them with the aim of bringing about their "departure" from the USSR. Struggle "on its borders" means putting pressure on socialist countries and inciting disturbances in them with the aim of bringing about their "departure" from the USSR. Struggle "inside the empire" has the aim -- no more no less -- of "breaking" the Ukraine and other Soviet republics away from Russia.

Madness? It is along these lines, however, that Washington would like to act. By building a bridge from the "Truman Doctrine" via the speech in Orlando to the "Reagan doctrine," U.S. ruling circles are pursuing a policy aimed at establishing U.S. diktat, fighting communism on a "world scale," and stirring up military conflicts in countries and regions whose peoples have chosen an anti-imperialist, independent course of development.

The 27th CPSU Congress stressed that the policy of total antagonism and military confrontation has no future. Fleeing into the past is no answer to the challenges of the future, rather it is an act of despair. This attitude does not become any less dangerous because of this. Rather the reverse is true. In these conditions the Soviet Union has done and will continue to do everything necessary to reliably ensure its own security and the security of our friends and allies, so no one is tempted to put the durability of our borders to the test.

RC INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT REFORM PROBLEMS VIEWED

M121425 Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 11, Mar 87 (Signed to Press 5 Mar 7) p 23

Article by Candidates of Economic Sciences Yu. Maltsev and I. Oleynik under the rubric At Readers' Request": "PRC: Industrial Management Reform" -- first paragraph in KONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA introduction]

Text] Readers V. Kozlov from Gorkiy City, K. Shmatenko from Moscow, and I. Sobolev rom Khimki, Moscow Oblast, have asked us to tell them about the industrial management eform now under say in the PRC. We publish and article on this theme.

broad discussion of questions pertaining to the large-scale economic reform, which as been in progress since 1979, is underway in the PRC press.

n the mid-eighties, HONGQI -- the theoretical organ of the CPC Central Committee -- rites, it became obvious that as a result of partial, half-hearted measures, it has ot proved possible to create an effective industrial management mechanism and liminate the numerous shortcomings and distortions engendered by the "cultural evolution" and the errors of recent years.

nder these conditions, the 3rd CPC Central Committee Plenum of the 12th Convocation dopted a resolution 20 October 1984 on an economic reform with planning reform as its entral component. In the course of this reform, it is intended to combine directive lan targets, based on firm prices for the basic (strategic) types of output; guideline plans," which will actively utilize economic levers (taxes, credits) with liding prices for a wide range of industrial goods, including the bulk of consumer oods; and "free market regulation" of the production of a number of consumer goods and ervices.

ixty commodity groups now are planned centrally. According to the state plan, they re to account for at least 20 percent of the total value of gross industrial output in 987. In accordance with the state plan, the production of further 30 percent or so of oods is to be planned by ministries, departments, or local organs of power. The guidance plans" drawn up by the same organs on the basis of the Gosplan targets are to over the production of around 40 percent of industrial output, and the output of pproximately 10 percent of goods will be regulated by the market.

n important condition of the restructuring of the economic mechanism in industry is he expansion of the economic independence and responsibility of enterprises. In ccordance with the resolution, the number of planned indicators is reduced to four in he 7th 5-Year Plan (1986-1990): output volume in terms of value; range of goods; rofit; and fulfillment of contract commitments. Enterprise management is authorized o market part of the above-plan output independently, to regulate the wage fund and he number if workers, to establish economic contacts, and to select cadres.

ogether with the expansion of enterprises' rights, attention is drawn to the need to tep up the monitoring of their performance and economic liability. Thus, if the plan or the output of goods under the "directive targets" is not fulfilled, or if there is o demand for the produced output, the enterprise is liable to a fine. If the ituation does not improve, restrictions on the acquisition of scarce resources are mposed, and, subsequently, the question is raised of amalgamating the enterprise with nother, morte successful on, or dismantling it altogether.

The PRC leadership believes that an important means of enhancing the profitability of state enterprises is a simplification of the management structure and a shortening of the chain from producer to consumer. According to a RENMIN RIBAO, at plants with more than 3,000 employees, the management apparatus has been reduced by 25 percent since 1984, and the average age of staff in the management component has decreased by 5 years. Every year some 10,000 enterprise directors and other management workers pass through the system of state reeducation and certification, which involves passing obligatory qualifying examinations. Beginning in 1985, a rule has been in effect at major enterprises according to which the post of director can be held by one person for a maximum of 4 years. After this period has expired, he can remain in this post only with the agreement of the labor collective.

The restructuring of the industrial management system has affected even its top echelons -- in 1983 the number of ministries and departments was reduced from 98 to 51. According to XINHUA, a PRC State Committee for Machine Building Affairs was established in December 1986, replacing the machine building ministries.

The restructuring of the economic mechanism in China's industry is a relatively complex and contradictory process. On the one hand, as the PRC press notes, tangible successes have been achieved, the output of goods has increased substantially, and the populations' living standards have risen. Judging by preliminary data, the 1986 plan was fulfilled in its entirety.

On the other hand, many Chinese economists take the view that a painstaking "adjustment" of certain propositions of the reform is still needed.

The PRC press cites among the serious "side effects" of the reform the excessively rapid increase in the number of industrial enterprises; the switch of a considerable proportion of state means and resources to virtually uncontrolled commercial activity; the increased number of illegal and semilegal middlemen; and increased speculation, misappropriation, and bribery. According to Yang Yichen, PRC prosecutor general, in 1984 alone legal proceedings were instituted in 43,000 cases involving economic crimes.

According to the Chinese press, nonfulfillment of the decisions of the central organs of power does occur, the attitude to these decisions has become more formal, and their interpretation has become more arbitrary. All this could only have a negative impact on the situation in the national economy. The prices for many goods have risen sharply, there is a raw material and energy shortage, the employment problem persists, the pace of renewal of production's technical base remains low, and the volume of capital construction is growing too fast.

Judging by the reports in the PRC press, many of the economic reforms' theoreticians and practitioners are clearly aware of the complexity of the economic problems facing the country. They see a way to their resolution through abandoning the "one-sided emphasis on pace" and "switching from a quantitative economy to a qualitative economy."

TASS REPORTS CONCLUSION OF SHULTZ' ASIAN TOUR

LD070534 Moscow TASS in English 0520 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo March 7 TASS -- U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has left Tokyo for the USA today on completion of his Asian tour which took him to the PRC, South Korea and Japan.

The talks held by George Shultz with Japan's Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari centered on the Soviet proposals on a cut in medium-range nuclear missiles and also on U.S.-Japanese economic differences.

Tokyo declared its preparedness to welcome an agreement on a considerable cut in medium-range missiles as the first step towards their total elimination in Europe and in Asia.

The talks have most clearly borne out the lack of a real prospect for a settlement in the visible future of the trade-economic difficulties between Japan and the USA, which have immensely sharpened.

DPRK PROPOSES HIGH LEVEL TALKS WITH SOUTH KOREA

LD061435 Moscow TASS in English 1338 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Pyongyang March 6 TASS -- "If the South Korean side positively responds to the proposal by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on the holding of military and political talks between Korea's north and south at a high level without delay, it will be possible at the same time to hold talks on other problem areas".

This was pointed out by Yi Chong-yol, the leader of the DPRK delegation at the talks between the North and the South of Korea through the channels of the Red Cross societies, in a statement for the press issued here today in support of the new peace initiative of the republic. "The talks between the DPRK and South Korea through the channels of the Red Cross societies", Yi Chong-yol pointed out, "were interrupted because of increased military maneuvers in the south of the peninsula and the hostile campaigns incompatible with peaceful humanistic talks. Proceeding from the obtaining situation, the DPRK came forward with the idea of holding talks at a high level and repeatedly urged the South to give due attention to it with a view to easing tension. The South Korean side should immediately agree to the proposal set out in the recent message sent by the premier of the Administration Council of the DPRK and by the minister of the People's Armed Forces to representatives of South Korea if they really wish a resumption of the interrupted dialogue and relaxation of tension in the Korean peninsula, Yi Chong-yol emphasized.

PRAVDA Hails Proposals

PM111101 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Mar 87 First Edition p 5

[Borid Barkhta "Commentator's Column": "In Favor of Dialogue"]

[Text] A few days ago the DPRK put forward new initiative which testify to its sincere interest in ensuring peace in the Far East.

Pyongyang has addressed constructive proposals to Seoul offering high-level North-South military-political talks within the current month. In addition, the DPRK deems it possible to resume economic and interparliamentary talks and the dialogue between the Red Cross societies. It has also proposed that the question of the construction of the Kumgangsan hydroelectric power station be examined.

The timeliness and importance of this DPRK approach to the problems of the relaxation of tension in the Korean peninsula is self-evident. As is known, one of the biggest U.S. military groupings numbering 360,000 men is deployed in the Asia and Pacific region. There are 32 U.S. bases in Japan and 40 such bases in South Korea. In addition there are plans to cobble together a Washington-Tokyo-Seoul bloc and possibly involve other states in it. Judging by appearances, the intention is to create a kind of "eastern NATO." South of the 39th parallel, large-scale U.S.-South Korean "Team Spirit" maneuvers are held every year. This kind of militarist provocation is under way at the moment. All this creates a real threat to peace, stability, and the security of the countries of this vast area of the world.

At the same time the implementation of the new DPRK proposals would pave the way to the achievement of compromise accords and -- most important -- to a substantial relaxation of tension not just in the Korean peninsula but in the entire Asia and Pacific region.

The DPRK is purposefully implementing a foreign policy course which is in line with the peace-loving efforts of the socialist countries. The public of the states of the Far East and other parts of the world is well aware of Pyongyang's recent positive initiatives. They include proposals for the withdrawal of all types of U.S. nuclear weapons and forces from South Korea, transforming the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone, replacing the armistice agreement with a peace agreement, drawing up a nonaggression declaration between North and South, and establishing a democratic confederal republic of Koryo through dialogue and talks between the interested parties, and a whole series of other proposals.

As any objective observer can see, Pyongyang's stance is based on good will.

OFFICIAL SAYS USSR TO PARTICIPATE IN OLYMPICS

SK270559 Seoul YONHAP in English 0533 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Strbske Pleso, Czechoslovakia, Feb 26 (YONHAP) -- A Soviet sports official said Thursday that the Soviet Union will participate in the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Mikhail Zukkan, the Soviets' chief delegate to the Winter Universiad, made the remark while meeting with his South Korean counterpart, Chong Song-Tae.

Zukkan said that Soviet authorities have decided to send a team to the Seoul Olympics.

He expressed concern, however, about the security of the Soviet athletes at the Seoul games, saying he feared a terrorist incident similar to the attack against Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics. The Soviet official said he was worried about possible anti-Soviet feelings stemming from the Soviet's shooting down of a Korean Airline plane, which killed 269 passengers.

In response, Chong noted that South Korea decided to host the Olympics to enhance world peace, flatly precluding any possibility of violence against the Soviets.

Zukkan called on Chong in return for a visit he received from Kim Chang-Chin, manager of the Korean ice hockey team, on Tuesday.

CPSU PARTY WORKER DELEGATION VISITS DPRK

PM101215 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Mar 87 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Under the Plan for Ties"]

[Text] A delegation of CPSU party workers headed by O.K. Rybakov, deputy chief of a CPSU Central Committee department, visited the DPRK from 23 February through 3 March in accordance with the plan for ties between the CPSU and the Workers Party of Korea [WPK]. During meetings and conversations special attention was paid to questions of the party leadership of foreign economic ties.

The delegation was received by Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the WKP Central Committee.

RAZUMOVSKIY RECEIVES VISITING MPRP DELEGATION

PM100905 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Interparty Ties"]

[Text] A delegation of MPRP party workers headed by L. Damdinjav, member of the MPRP Central Committee and chief of an MPRP Central Committee section, was in the Soviet Union 2-6 March in accordance with the plan for interparty ties between the CPSU and the MPRP.

The Mongolian comrades familiarized themselves with the experience of the work of party organizations in implementing the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum in the sphere of cadre policy. Meetings and talks were held at the CPSU Central Committee Organization Party Work Department, CPSU Orel Obkom, the CPSU Central Committee Academy of Social Sciences, the Moscow Higher Party School, and a number of party committees.

The delegation was received by G.P. Razumovskiy, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, T. Gurbadam, Mongolian ambassador to the USSR, took part in the discussion, which was held in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

ADMIRAL CHERNAVIN PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT TO INDIA

Arrives in India

PM061619 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Mar 87 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed and TASS-attributed reports under general heading "Arrival in India"]

[Text] On 1 March Admiral of the Fleet V.N. Chernavin, USSR deputy defense minister and commander in chief of the Navy, left Moscow for Delhi on an official visit.

Admiral of the Fleet V.N. Chernavin was seen off at the airport by Army General Ye.F. Ivanovskiy, USSR deputy defense minister and commander in chief of the Ground Forces, and admirals and officers.

Among those seeing him off was Ch.V. Ranganathan, minister plenipotentiary at the Indian Embassy in Moscow.

Delhi, 2 Mar -- Admiral of the Fleet V.N. Chernavin, USSR deputy defense minister and commander in chief of the Navy, has arrived here on an official visit. He was met at the airport by Admiral R.H. Tahiliani, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Indian Armed Forces and chief of naval staff.

On the same day a friendly conversation was held between Admiral of the Fleet V.N. Chernavin and Admiral R.H. Tahiliani.

Meets Indian Defense Minister

PM061621 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Mar 87 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Visit to India"]

[Text] Delhi, 4 Mar -- Fleet Admiral V.N. Chernavin, commander in chief of the Soviet Navy and USSR deputy defense minister, who is here on an official visit, today paid a call on V. Pratap Singh, Indian defense minister, and Arjun Singh, the republic's minister of state for defense. He also had a meeting with General K. Sandarji, chief of staff of the Army, and Air Chief Marshal L. Lafonaine, chief of staff of the Air Force.

Fleet Admiral V.N. Chernavin laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the "Gates of India" memorial cemetery in the center of the Indian capital.

Completes Visit

PM100927 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Mar 87 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Visit Completed"]

[Text] Delhi, 7 Mar -- Fleet Admiral V.N. Chernavin, commander in chief of the Soviet Navy and USSR deputy defense minister, has completed his official visit to India.

Fleet Admiral V.N. Chernavin has left for home. He was seen off at Delhi airport by Admiral (R.H. Tahiliani, chairman of the Indian Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff and chief of staff of the Indian Navy, members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other officials.

Returns to Moscow

PM101245 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Mar 87 First Edition p 3

[Unattrubuted report under general heading: "Return to Moscow"]

[Text] Admiral of the Fleet V.N. Chernavin, commander in chief of the Navy and USSR deputy defense minister, who has been in India on an official visit, returned to Moscow 7 March.

At the airport Admiral of the Fleet V.N. Chernavin was met by Army General Ye. F. Ivanovskiy, commander in chief of the Ground Forces and USSR deputy defense minister, and admirals and officers.

Brigadier (R.P.S. Negi), military attache to the Indian Embassy in the USSR, was among the welcoming party.

TRADE DOCUMENTS SIGNED WITH PAKISTAN 6 MAR

LD061714 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1455 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, 6 Mar (TASS) -- A protocol on the mutual supply of goods and other documents regulating trade between Pakistan and the USSR in 1987 were signed in Moscow today. The USSR will export to Pakistan machines and equipment including machine tools, motor vehicles and also some raw materials. The USSR will buy ready-made garments, cotton fabrics and other consumer goods from Pakistan.

SHEVARDNADZE INTERVIEWED ON ASIAN VISIT

BK121320 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 12 Mar 87

["Text" of interview with Eduard Shevardnadze, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and USSR foreign affairs minister by PASASON correspondent in conjunction with Shevardnadze's visit to Laos 8-10 March -- read by announcer, date not given]

[Text] [Correspondent] What is your view of Lao-Soviet relations and the immediate development of this relationship?

[Shevardnadze] I will discuss our relations and their development at various levels. At the level of people, meaning the level of the feelings of the people of our two countries maintain, our two peoples maintain very warm feelings of friendship and sincerity toward each other. In the Soviet Union, great attention has been paid to the history and culture of Laos and the present life of the Lao people. Through my 2-day stay in Vientiane, I can conclude that I have seen the profound love of the Lao people for our Soviet people.

Bilaterial relations at the party and state levels are also active and full of complete respect and trust. Regarding this, it is our party leaders, namely Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev and Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, who have taught and built the essence of these characteristics. With regard to foreign political policies, the foreign ministries of our two countries have pursued close relations, exchanged extensive information, and consulted with each other.

Economic cooperation is not where it should be. Although it is quite extensive, I would say that its quality does not meet the requirements of either side. We want something of the highest quality, which is the line with what the designers who are to draw up and perfect the plans are thinking. Today, we regard efficiency, modernity, and actual obligations as a significant standard. In this regard, it is necessary for us to criticize ourselves. In the past, our foreign economic mechanism did not perform energetically. Now, since it has been organizationally consolidated and perfected, many changes have been made in our economic activities. The principled modification already approved will create favorable conditions for Soviet organizations and enterprises engaging in foreign economic exchanges to act quickly, regularly, actively, and effectively.

Friendship and cooperation are not ordinary matters, nor are they simply theoretical slogans. They must be joined in actual and vital practice with the activities of every day and hour. I would like to stress the daily and hourly activities that bring about firm achievements in economic relations. This is our duty in the sacred interests of our countries and socialism. We must settle it without any qualifications.

[Correspondent] You have just concluded your visits to Thailand, Australia, and Indonesia. I would like to know how the leaders of those countries appreciate the possibility of turning Southeast Asia into a region of peace, stability, and neighborly cooperation.

[Shevardnadze] This question arose in every country we visited. In principle, interlocutors have reached unanimity on the point that building this region into the kind of area mentioned is necessary, desirable, and possible. The interlocutors have maintained different views, however, on the definition of its characteristics, the next steps to be taken, and the size and boundaries of the region.

This is natural. The important point is that the people in the ASEAN countries have active intentions of cooperating with the Indochinese countries in building a region of peace, stability, and neighborly cooperation in Southeast Asia. This idea has received vigorous public support. The disagreement on the matter can be settled through the evolution of serious political talks. Remaining disputes can also be settled through talks.

At the same time, in my talks I have noticed that certain state activists fail to see the necessity of broadening and enriching the contacts and relations between the ASEAN and the Indochinese countries. For example, Thai Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila told me that the volume of economic and trade cooperation with Laos can be increased greatly, leading inevitably to the maintenance of peace and neighborliness in this region. It is difficult to oppose this unless trade is used as a tool to stage intervention and aggression.

[Correspondent] In your view, what is the impact of the Moscow forum, For a Nuclear-Free World, for the Survival of Humanity, on the struggle of the various nations to obstruct a nuclear war and for the safeguarding of peace on this globe?

[Shevardnadze] I think, first of all, it has reflected the unanimous views of the various nations on how very concerned they are about the destiny of the world and how greatly determined they are to strengthen their solidarity in the struggle for the survival of mankind. The Moscow forum has reflected the overall stand, attitude, and belief of the world people. Amid all the differences, they believe in a unanimous expression against military threats and the elimination of nuclear weapons, the maintenance of peace in outer space, and humanitarianism in international and human relations. It is believed that this forum will favor the approval of a new political idea which will greatly affect world politics. A person cannot become a state activist or politician if he refuses to accept the attitude of the solidarity of the hundreds of prominent literary, artistic, scientific, social, and religious activists attending the forum.

On this, Mikhail Gorbachev said in his speech at the forum that leading Soviet circles are attentively and seriously studying the suggestions and views of those participants of this round-table forum in Moscow. It is not at all incidental that the Soviet decision for independent consultations on medium-range, strategic, nuclear missiles in the Soviet-U.S. meeting was approved immediately by the Moscow forum. This is considered a scrupulous and great step that we have achieved and it is the hope of the various nations of the world, in particular on the nuclear issue which is considered the central issue. I will say this: the Moscow forum has done a good job for peace and will continue to do so, according to Mikhail Gorbachev's views, for the achievement of humanitarianism in international relations.

[Correspondent] The mass media are now paying great attention to the so-called Cambodian problem. Mr Minister, what is your opinion on this issue?

[Shevardnadze] It is true that this topic has been echoed in the mass media. It was also raised for discussions in Bangkok, Canberra, and Jakarta. In fact, we only stopped over in the capital of Thailand for a very short time, but we primarily discussed the Cambodian issue during the stopover. More discussions on the issue are necessary and talks with Thai leaders have not yet come to an end. The Thai foreign minister will pay an official visit to Moscow. I am confident that we will have a detailed exchange of views on this issue during the visit.

In short, I happen to have many significant ideas after hearing about this issue in those countries. All of my interlocutors have agreed to seek a settlement of the Cambodian situation and they are also prepared to take part in the settlement. But we want the countries belonging to the said association [ASEAN] to pay great attention to and seriously study the proposals advanced by the socialist countries of Indochina. On this issue, the attitude of all of them is creative, reasonable, and based on the possibility of consultations with the various confronting groups. I would like to say that any talks on any issue are dialectic by their very nature. It remains to be seen what the talks can yield, but whenever they are held, work will be carried out actively and patiently. There is no doubt that Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia have constructively paid attention to various reasonable issues which should favor holding the meetings from the viewpoint of the other side to the talks.

The Australian and Indonesian mass media echoed a little dissatisfaction that the Soviet Union has not proposed anything new on the Cambodian issue. They also quoted other people's words, saying that the Soviet Union does not have its own means of settlement or that it is avoiding talks. This is my reply: although we have a certain means of settlement, we will not allow ourselves to force any democratic state to accept it. We have stressed everywhere that the solution to the Cambodian problem is the affair of the Cambodian people themselves. In Cambodia, there is a legitimate government which has gained support. We see that this government has marched forward along a very correct path. This can be seen by its acts of seeking a reasonable conciliation and by actively working in the interest of national concord.

Regarding this question, I want to stress that any difficult question can be solved without clear evidence which can be seen by your eyes. The gradual accumulation of positive factors over time will create new quality. We are not avoiding studying the problem. We have made clear our attitudes which correspond with our method -- the method which will lead to achieving the goal.

[Correspondent] Recently, in your country, a plenary session of the CPSU Central Committee was convened on the question of transforming and consolidating the organization as well as the policy toward cadres. In your opinion, how will the outcome of this plenum affect the continued development of the Soviet economy and the broadening of democracy in the Soviet Union?

[Shevardnadze] It will have a great deal of direct effect. This is to say that in parallel with the continuation of the strategic orientations of the 27th CPSU Congress on the acceleration of national socioeconomic development, the plenary session of the party Central Committee introduced a new line of thinking on practical reforms. Therefore, rectifying the conduct of party life, democratizing production, and consolidating the electoral system are closely linked with cadre work. To quote Mikhail Gorbachev: This is to bring the important performers -- the people -- to the front of the stage.

We have advanced to a stage of development which calls for the participation of citizens in formulating practical solutions. When more capable and serious masses are brought into managing the social (?strategy), then the political sense will be aroused among the owners of their own homes. [as heard] According to the tasks outlined by the 27th CPSU Congress, we will enter the year 2000 by doubling national productivity. This is the only method which is imperative. Of course, under the conditions of democratization, several new things must be learned.

But all in all, the Soviet society is ready and its cultural and political standards are high to accommodate this development. It must be emphasized that the implementation of this resolution must rely on all the fruits scored in the country over the 70 years of our nation's history. We will carry out the consolidation of socialism by ourselves and on our own basis.

[Correspondent] Could you talk about the Soviet initiative in the sphere of completely eliminating nuclear weapons throughout the world and why the United States has opposed such an initiative?

[Shevardnadze] The most complete initiative of the Soviet Union for guiding humanity away from the nuclear threat was contained in the 15 January statement announced by Mikhail Gorbachev. The true nature of our method is to simultaneously carry out two corresponding movements. On the one hand, the number of weapons will be gradually reduced and all will be completely eliminated by the year 2000; all types of weapons of mass destruction will be banned and destroyed, and the numbers of all types of weapons will be made equal at a reasonable level. At the same time, strict and reliable inspection measures must be instituted for the elimination and reduction of nuclear weapons. On the other hand, a collective global security system must be established on a basis which is guaranteed not by the military but by political, economic, and social rights.

The Soviet-U.S. summit in Reykjavik clearly testified to the reality of the concept of a world free from nuclear weapons. We came very close to reaching agreement. But due to the attitude of the U.S., the initiative came to a halt. As I said earlier, we have now proposed to the U.S. to, in the beginning, resolve the problem of medium-range missiles apart from other problems. On this basis, we began to hold talks with the U.S. in Geneva. If the United States does not backpeddle, an agreement on this issue can be reached within a short period of time.

With regard to the lack of intent and little attention on the U.S. side to move toward adopting realistic measures on arms reduction, it can be said that Washington is unable to accept a blind calculation to be militarily inferior. This line of thinking forces us to continue the arms race. The United States wants to weaken our economy at the end. There is a group of influential people in that country whose livelihood depends on the arms race. Of course, they do not want to lose their source of income. This is certainly a most complete answer. But there are also other political and ideological factors. However, the truth is the truth. The offensive of our peace forces has made the enemy of the nuclear-free world less reasonable.

In conclusion, I will discuss a question which you have not asked but which I regard as very important. My 2-day visit to your country is certainly not enough to learn about your way of life. But before this visit, prior preparations were fundamentally made. In your country, the Fourth LPRD Congress just recently ended and we closely followed its development. And now, by linking our knowledge to our feeling during the 2-day stay in Vientiane, we are very proud of the fraternal Lao people for scoring great achievements in building its new socialist economy and developing its time-honored and distinctive culture. We hail you for these achievements. We thank all the Vientiane residents for showing their graciousness and hospitality to us as your guests. May peace and prosperity be (?attained by Laos).

REPORTAGE ON SHEVARDNADZE VISIT TO SRV

SRV Press Cited

LD111158 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0300 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] The USSR foreign minister's tour of a number of the Asian and Pacific region countries is in its final stage. Today Comrade Shevardnadze begins an official visit to Vietnam. Previously he visited Australia, Indonesia, Laos and Cambodia. Now to our correspondent in Hanoi, (Leonid Klichevskiy).

[Klichevskiy] Today's Hanoi newspapers have devoted a number of articles to Comrade Shevardnadze's visit. They express confidence that this visit will be yet another milestone in the history of Soviet-Vietnamese relations and will serve to strengthen friendship and cooperation between our countries and people. Vietnam highly evaluates the USSR's initiatives aimed at averting the threat of nuclear war and defending peace. For its part, the USSR is in solidarity with the efforts of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia aimed at turning Southeast Asia into a zone of peace and stability and it supports Vietnam's course in normalizing relations with China.

Shevardnadze Arrives in Hanoi

LD110634 Moscow TASS in English 0627 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi March 11 TASS -- Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, Foreign Minister of the USSR Eduard Shevardnadze arrived for an official friendly visit here today.

In Hanoi he was met by member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Do Muoi, member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, Foreign Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Nguyen Co Thach, member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Dong Sy Nguyen, other officials.

Meets Nguyen Co Thach

LD111412 Moscow TASS in English 1345 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi March 11 TASS -- Talks were conducted here today between Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, who is here on an official friendly visit, and Nguyen Co Thach, member of the Political Bureau of the CPV Central Committee, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The sides noted with satisfaction the successful ongoing development of the multifaceted Soviet-Vietnamese relations based on the firm foundation of Marxism-Leninism, socialist internationalism and formalised in the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the USSR and the SRV.

They confirmed their striving to press in every way for a further deepening and increased effectiveness of the cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

The sides reviewed in detail the more urgent problems of our time. They stressed the need at a time of the current aggravation of the overall world situation, caused by the actions of the imperialist forces, for the further strengthening of cooperation between the USSR and Vietnam on the international scene. This peaceful cooperation is a tangible contribution to the common struggle of the countries of the socialist community and all the other progressive and peace-loving forces of the world for curbing the arms race on earth and preventing it from spreading into outer space, removing the threat of war and establishing an all-embracing system of international security.

The sides noted that the interests of the whole of mankind would be promoted by the implementation of the Soviet programme for building a nuclear-free world and eliminating all the weapons of mass annihilation, put forward by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in his statement on January 15, 1986.

In the unanimous opinion of both sides, the Vladivostok initiatives and the principles of the Delhi declaration contain good landmarks for the work for the benefit of peace, security and cooperation in the Asian and Pacific region.

The Soviet Union and Vietnam are prepared to consider any other constructive ideas called upon to promote the improvement of the situation in that part of the world.

The Soviet side reiterated its support for the well-known peace initiatives of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Kampuchea the realization of which would promote the development of positive tendencies in South-East Asia. In that context the sides had an allround discussion of matters pertaining to the situation in Indochina and emphasized the importance of the search -- within the framework of dialogue with the neighboring countries -- for effective ways leading to a Kampuchean settlement.

The talks proceeded in an atmosphere of fraternal friendship, cordiality and full mutual understanding.

On the same day the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam gave a reception in honor of E.A. Shevardnadze.

ALLEGATIONS OF 'RUSSIANS' ON MINDANAO VIEWED

LD091753 Moscow TASS in English 1637 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 9 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Askold Biryukov writes:

A really stunning piece of news was transmitted a few days ago by THE ASSOCIATED PRESS from Manila. Referring to a number of sources until it reached the agency, the AP wrote: "The former rebel claims Russians working with insurgents" (in the Philippines). He asserts, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS goes on to say confidentially, that last year he saw three young Soviet men among guerrillas in an area of the Mindanao Island and they (neither more nor less than) "discussed ways of intensifying the rebellion".

How easy all this goes with "the authors" of this fraud. Some "rebel" saw "Russians" somewhere in Mindanao and then, it turns out, he all but was present at their conversation with the insurgents. Otherwise, how he could know what these "Russians" talked about. And the talk was not just some trifle but how to intensify the rebellion in the Philippines.

Oh, these Russians! They are roaming the world quite a lot with their "expansionist designs" and now, you see, they have reached Mindanao. And it's a short way to Manila, and generally speaking..... a familiar style worked out inside the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. A rough doing, intended for not very exacting people. One more attempt to lead the public opinion both in the United States and the Philippines away from ventures of the Washington neoglobalism policy, like Irangate.

The American military bases, scattered in the whole world and in the Philippines -- the biggest ones outside the U.S territory -- are advanced springboards and strongpoints for conducting this policy in the Asian-Pacific region. And to keep them in its hands. Washington badly needs instability, and even better -- destabilisation in that or other region, including the Philippines. Washington needs instability and destabilization in order to prove and justify the "need" of its military presence.

According to the architects of this policy, there is no better tool for that but the hackneyed "Soviet threat" that the Washington liars often use. Could one check whether some former "insurgent", last year to that, saw or not these Russians in Mindanao. But the rumour has already been launched through the communication lines. "The threat" has started working, requiring "reply measure", and they were not long in coming.

In the past few weeks alone, reported the Philippine newspaper "MALAYA", four thousand marines arrived at the U.S. Clark Field Air Base which was considered at the Municipal Council of Angeles as "a prelude to U.S. direct involvement in suppressing by force the insurgent movement in the country".

"MANILA JOURNAL" reported, in its turn, that the newest hospital ship "Mercy" is to arrive in the Philippines on March 18 with the personnel and equipment to give first aid to a thousand of "patients" per day. And somewhat earlier the Philippine mass media reported the arrival from the United States under assumed names of the first group of mercenaries to participate in the struggle against the insurgent movement in the Philippines. They were recruited by retired general of secret sevices John Singlaub, who initially distinguished himself during the U.S. "dirty war" in Vietnam and then was engaged in training Nicaraguan "contras", and who spares no effort in staging secret operations and armed interference in affairs of other states.

Such are the irrefutable, not invented, facts, the facts showing whence the threat to peace in the Philippines and to independence of that country.

This fraud is on a par with other fabrications of the U.S. Administration which made lies a tool of its policy.

SFRY'S KRIVOKAPIC ON POST-CONGRESS PROGRESS

PM101407 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[Article by Vlajko Krivokapic, chief editor of LCY weekly KOMUNIST, under the rubric "Following the Course of the Party Congresses": "The Determination To Go Forward"]

[Text] Belgrade -- The 8 months since the 13th LCY Congress are too a short time to fully evaluate the work of implementing its decisions and guidelines. This is made all the more difficult if you consider the historical conditions in which it was held. The situation within the country and international events considerably influenced the preparation and character of the congress documents as well as all the party's subsequent work.

The congress demonstrated the readiness and determination of the LCY and working people to firmly and consistently counter the negative trends in socialist building and, on the basis of the documents adopted, begin a new phase of forward movement. The Yugoslav Communists' supreme forum put forward complex tasks in further developing social relations and the political system based on self-management in the economic, scientific and technical sphere, the ideological and organizational strengthening of the League of Communists, and the improvement of cadre policy.

Much attention was paid to the LCY's activity in improving public education, developing culture, ensuring individual freedoms, expanding citizens' rights and increasing their duties, and fully highlighting the rising generation's social role.

The congress adopted a separate resolution on ensuring the fraternity and unity of the members of the different nations and ethnic groups living in the Kosovo Autonomous Province. Yugoslav Communists have been given an extensive program of actions in the struggle for peace, equitable international cooperation, progress, and socialism. Thus the tasks that were set by the congress for the LCY and working people are great and complex. They take account of the course of events in recent years, of course, 8 months is not long enough to implement them.

It is well known that in the period between the 12th and 13th congresses, the LCY and our socialist society encountered many problems on the path of further developing self-management as the main feature of our life, and in overcoming the difficulties and crisis situations in the national economy, relations between nations, business ties with foreign countries, and so on. The situation was made even more complex by the phenomena of stagnation in the economy accompanied by high and constantly rising inflation and a shortage of production materials. The foreign debt hung over our economy like a sword of Damocles.

The difficulties connected with the inadequte development of individual republics and Kosovo Province aggravated the economic situation by sometimes giving it a grave social and political character. They influenced the dynamics of relations between nations and republics and created new problems in the distribution and redistribution of national income, which was smaller than expected.

These factors made for a certain increase in nationalism on the one hand, and bureaucracy and technocracy on the other. The appearance of many negative trends was rendered possible, above all those of a bourgeois liberal and dogmatic type, as was the revival of elements opposed to communism, socialism, and self-management.

The influence of the international economic and political situation on the position here in the period between the two congresses and at present should not be exaggerated, especially not with the aim of justifying the mistakes, although, of course, the artificially inflated dollar and the unjustifiably high interest rate on credits had a perceptible influence on the Yugoslav national economy.

There are quite a few obstacles and barriers making it difficult for our economy to enter the world market. The international reactionary forces responsible for them have kept an attentive watch on our internal development, often engaging in wishful thinking and making mountains out of molehills. This was particularly evident after the death of Iosip Broz Tito. The gloomy predictions that could be heard a few years ago and the even gloomier hopes that our enemies nurtured were not realized, fortunately for us and for socialism in the world. Despite its difficulties and crisis situations, Yugoslavia is becoming increasingly strong. It is from that standpoint that we began to implement the far-reaching congress decisions and guidelines, aware that it is impossible to do everything at once. We are confident that these decisions and guidelines, together with such determining documents as the long-term program for economic stabilization, the critical analysis of the functioning of the political system of socialist self-management, and the conclusions of the LCY Central Committee Presidium on the further strengthening of unity and commonality in Serbia and in the federation as a whole are, at the present stage, a platform for a qualitative leap forward in overcoming the temporary difficulties.

Last year and, in particular, the post-congress period, showed that our assessments are right and that much of what has been planned has been implemented. Industrial production has increased almost 4 percent. Workers' wages outstripped inflation and increased by about 10 percent in real terms. This is the highest indicator in the past 10 years. Good results have been achieved in tourism and in the country's overall balance of payments, which has had a favorable influence on the SFRY's external liquidity and enabled it to meet its commitments to its foreign creditors on time. We reduced our foreign debt by over $1 billion.

On New Year's Eve, the SFRY Federal Assembly approved the measures proposed by the Federal Executive Council, measures which, it should be specially noted, are based on the congress guidelines and decisions.

However, Yugoslavia would not be what it is now had we not been highly critical of ourselves and our results. This also applies to implementation of the congress decisions and guidelines. In other words, when noting what has been achieved, we state openly and self-critically that a decisive breakthrough has still not been achieved either in the economy, or in overcoming the obstacles on the path of developing self-management.

Communists and working people are unanimous in their demand that the LCY and society's political structure must work more effectively. For the LCY to enhance its leading role, it must be more vigorous than it has been so far and must ensure the consolidation of its ideological unity and unity of actions.

Unity must be strengthened as the 13th congress determined: by broadening the democratic foundations and uniting and increasing the responsibility of all society's forces. The LCY can only ensure a decisive breakthrough in the realization of its leading role if it acts as a factor for cohesion within the political and economic system as a whole.

Our critics within the country are often impatient and full of illusions. This is characteristic of man. Such criticism may be of considerable benefit only if its social energy is channeled into the implementation of practical deeds and changes.

If the critical approach to the fulfillment of the party congress decisions and guidelines is translated into the language of actions and everyday practice, this will mean that we must more rapidly complete and change the political system of socialist self-management not, of course, because of criticism, but simply because of its class essence.

The decisive role of the working class is again to the fore, a class which this time must free both itself and society from the contradictions and difficulties created by socialist-building and the revolutionary process. Without doubt, this is no easy task because we are talking about the vital interests of the peoples and ethnic groups, republics, and provinces, and because we must implement the congress decisions and guidelines in conditions of the constant strengthening of the fraternity and unity of our peoples and ethnic groups and the further democratization of social relations.

Improvements are taking place, as the events of recent weeks confirm again. A session of the LCY Central Committee Presidium examined how the guidelines of the 13th congress and the Central Committee on strengthening unity and togetherness in the Socialist Republic of Serbia are being implemented. The discussion showed that tangible results and positive changes have been achieved. The SFRY Presidium approved the draft changes to the SFRY Constitution, which was drawn up after a long and difficult coordination of the positions of the republics and provinces. This is an important step in the implementation of the congress instructions.

The recent LCY Central Committee plenum gave concrete form to the congress provisions in the sphere of accelerating scientific and technical progress.

Thus, despite the difficulties and weaknesses in the implementation of the tasks set by the congress, our society and the LCY are increasingly tackling the most vital questions. We understand that this is the only way that we can fully implement the 13th LCY Congress decisions.

BULGARIA'S DYULGEROV SPEAKS AT TU CONFERENCE

AU031255 Sofia TRUD in Bulgarian 23 Feb 87 pp 1, 3

[Text] Moscow, 22 February (from Raycho Radulov, our correspondent) -- The Fourth Accountability-Election Conference of the United Bulgarian Trade Unions Organization in the USSR took place at the Bulgarian Embassy here in Moscow today. Petur Dyulgerov, candidate member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Bulgarian Trade Unions Central Council; Georgi Pankov, ambassador of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to the USSR; and Encho Moskov, first secretary of the Joint BCP Committee in the USSR; as well as Valentin Makeyev, secretary of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions [AUCCTU], attended the conference.

The collectives of the USSR Construction Department have fulfilled their 5-year plan ahead of schedule, as well as their plan for 1986, with regard to the basic indexes, by having obtained 5 million leva in excess of the plan. Over 1.5 million housing units and over 200 social, everyday life projects were built. The raw materials established by contract for our country also were delivered.

During the period under review, the successes of the "timber industry and construction" state economic trust in Komi (ASSR) were consolidated, and its four enterprises overfulfilled their plans according to all indexes. The trust is coming close to its planned capacity. The necessary timber was dispatched to Bulgaria at reduced production costs and its quality has improved.

The accountability report of the United Council of the Bulgarian Trade Unions in the USSR read by Valentin Gurvanov, chairman of the United Council, pointed out that in dealing with the work in a more thorough fashion, serious shortcomings are revealed preventing the optimal use of the existing reserves and opportunities.

The conference delegates adopted a critical attitude in their remarks and raised questions which are urgently awaiting solution. They submitted justified demands to the Bulgarian economic organizations situated in the USSR and to the higher-ranking organs and organizations in Bulgaria.

The building workers in Moscow and Aksay have been lagging behind for as long as 2 years and cannot overcome this situation. This evokes the justified concern of the Soviet partners.

The work on the "Progress" pipeline is proceeding slowly. Our commitments toward the USSR, however, are great. A drastic change is required in this respect.

The tasks connected with the "Intensification-90" program are implemented with delays in timber production.

The workers of the timber industry sector are not supplied with the necessary high-quality working clothes.

Numerous examples of outdated forms of trade union work were cited from the speakers' rostrum. Many questions, for example, which could be resolved on the spot are delayed for days and months. The delegates appealed for a more dynamic spirit on the part of every individual and of the entire collective.

The fact that the critical tone of the conference prevailed and the statements were permeated by the unwillingness to accept passivity and indifference -- is not only encouraging, but represents a reliable guarantee that the Bulgarian building workers and timber producers will become worthy partners of their Soviet comrades.

Comrade Petur Dyulgerov made a detailed statement at the conference, expressing his satisfaction at the critical spirit of the conference. Specific measures must be adopted in order to cope with the great problems involving the "Progress" and "Intensification-90" programs; it is necessary to adopt specific measures for an initial guarantee that the programs will be implemented. It was stressed that we are proceeding toward a qualitatively new stage of integration with the Soviet Union, that we are facing the implementation of major programs, and that the Bulgarian side should manifest initiative and competence in this respect. The solution of numerous questions depends upon our Bulgarian representatives in the USSR. What else should their task of their leadership be, if not to create normal working conditions for the collectives?

Comrade Petur Dyulgerov dwelt on the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum and on Comrade Todor Zhivkov's memorandum "Certain Considerations in Connection with the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum and the Further Work To Implement the BCP's Strategic Course." [paragraph continues]

He also dealt with the decision of the BCP Central Committee Politburo on the subject. He stressed that these documents contain a theoretical and practical evaluation of the character and methods of restructuring in our country, of the further development along all lines and trends, and of the relations between our two parties and countries. The wealth of the postulates and ideas, approaches, and criteria enable us once more to assess our own positions, to enrich our strategic course, and, even more, to expand our work for the implementation of this course. The main thing in this regard is the concurrence of the ideas developed by the 27th CPSU Congress, by the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum, and by our party's strategic line.

Valentin Gurvanov was reelected chairman of the Bulgarian Trade Unions United Council in the USSR.

POLAND SIGNS TU AGREEMENT, CHAIRMEN SPEAK

AU261419 Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 24 Feb 87 p 7

[Report by Wieslaw S. Debski, TRYBUNA LUDU Moscow correspondent: "Production, Management, Recreation, and Tourism"]

[Text] On 23 February in Moscow an agreement was signed between the OPZZ and the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions [AUCCTU] on the further development and enhancement of cooperation betwen the trade unions of the PPR and USSR.

Apart from the representation of workers' interests, the OPZZ and the AUCCTU accept as their most important task the raising of production and social energy of working people in the struggle to implement party congress resolutions, says the document. The chief path to this is the comprehensive development of production based on scientific-technological progress, the structural alteration of the economy, maximum use of economic reserves, and the introduction of social forms of work management and organization.

The agreement calls for the development of trade union contacts between the two countries, mainly at the factory level. There will be an exchange of experience in workers' technical creativity, inventiveness, and rationalization. Work force participation in factory management will be publicized. The exchange of workers' brigades and groups will be continued.

The cooperation also will involve the solving of housing problems, the organization of sanatoriums and health spas, sports and tourism, and the work of trade union research centers.

The role of the trade unions in the international peace struggle was stressed. The aim to fully implement the socialist countries' disarmament proposals was regarded as one of the most important duties of both countries' trade unions.

After the signing, the heads of both trade union centers said:

Alfred Miodowicz, OPZZ chairman: Today's agreement is a continuation of the long-term cooperation between the Polish and Soviet class trade unions. What is important is that our contacts are not limited to the aktivs, but involve increasingly wider groups of workers. The exchange of worker brigades and collectives started last year is encouraging the popularization of views and experiences concerning production. We are at a time when our economies are being restructured. This presents the trade unions with the task of finding their place in this process not only as energetic participants, but as critical observers. This is a new, important platform of our cooperation.

Stepan Shalayev, AUCCTU chairman: Today's agreement should serve to develop the cooperation between our trade union organizations. We already have fair experience, especially at the factory and okrug levels. However, life is demanding new tasks of the trade unions, hence the need to define the most important paths of our cooperation and new ways of implementing it. We have signed the agreement at an unusually important time for the Soviet trade union movement, on the even of its 27th congress, which will define further trade union prospects in our country and ways of performing the tasks ahead of us.

Wlodzimierz Natorf, PPR ambassador to the USSR, attended the ceremony.

COOPERATION DOCUMENTS SIGNED WITH HUNGARY

PM091311 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Signing of Documents"]

[Text] Budapest, 7 Mar -- The signing of documents on cooperation between Soviet and Hungarian enterprises in power and chemical machine building, the chemical industry, the mechanization of loading and unloading work, and other fields has taken place here. The treaties, agreements, and protocols that have been signed enshrine the results of talks with Hungarian partners held by a large group now in Hungary consisting of directors of Soviet machine building and other enterprises and representatives of sectorial ministries headed by Yu.V. Konyshev, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Bureau for Machine Building.

During the talks, there was a discussion of a broad range of fundamental and practical questions about the creation and functioning of joint enterprises and collectives and about direct scientific and technical production ties between the two countries' enterprises. There was an examination of specific fields of the economic collaboration of the partners in the joint Soviet-Hungarian "Mikromed" enterprise and other projects.

BCP DELEGATION STUDIES IDEOLOGICAL WORK

PM101253 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Mar 87 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Exchange of Experience"]

[Text] A delegation of BCP party workers headed by V. Momov, first deputy chief of the BCP Central Committee Ideological Policy Department, visited the Soviet Union 23 February through 3 March in accordance with the plan for interparty ties between the CPSU and the BCP.

The Bulgarian comrades acquainted themselves with progress in the implementation of the decisions of the 27th party congress and the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum and the experience of the CPSU's ideological work. They had meetings and conversations at the CPSU Central Committee Propaganda Department, the CPSU Central Committee Science and Educational Institutions Department, the Moscow CPSU Gorkom, and other party and social organizations.

SOKOLOV GREETS GDR'S KESSLER ON ARMY JUBILEE

PM081507 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Mar 87 Second Edition p 1

[Message from Marshal of the Soviet Union S. Sokolov, USSR defense minister, to Army General H. Kessler, GDR national defense minister, on Army anniversary]

[Text] To Army General Comrade H. Kessler, GDR Minister of national defense.

Esteemed Comrade Minister!

On behalf of the USSR Armed Forces and myself, I send you and all GDR servicemen cordial congratulations and fraternal combat greetings on the 31 anniversary of the National People's Army.

Unswervingly developing relations of fraternal friendship and cooperation with Soviet Armed Forces and the other Warsaw Pact member-state armies, the National People's Army is discharging with honor its patriotic duty in the defense of the GDR working people's socialist gains and is making a worthy contribution to the strengthening of the defense capability of the entire socialist community.

I wish the personnel of the GDR National People's Army much success in the implementation of the tasks set by the 11th SED Congress in further strengthening the GDR's defense might.

With communist greetings,

Marshal of the Soviet Union S. Sokolov, USSR defense minister.

GORBACHEV EXCHANGES MESSAGES WITH SWEDISH WRITER

LD090919 Moscow TASS in English 1529 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] Stockholm March 9 TASS -- By TASS correspondent Nikolay Vukolov:

A pleasant ceremony has been held at the USSR Embassy in Stockholm today:

USSR Ambassador to Sweden Boris Pankin turned over to Mrs. Astrid Lingren a letter from Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The Swedish woman writer of world renown was invited for the international forum in Moscow "for nuclear-free world, for the survival of humanity." Astrid Lingren could not, for health reasons, go for the forum, in which she very much wished to participate. Therefore the woman writer, whose works are known in all countries of the world not only to children but also to grown-ups, decided to express her gratitude for the invitation and sent a letter to the Soviet leader.

The letter said: "Dear Mr. Gorbachev, I wish to thank you for your initiative to convene that peace conference. It is a ray of hope in this time of hopelessness. I wish to thank you above all on behalf of children, on behalf of those who suffer most because of our inability to live in peace on Earth.

I received the other day a letter from a little Swedish boy. He could hardly write and the letter was a brief one. It said in crooked block capitals: 'I am afraid of war. Are you too?'

What did I have to answer? Since I wished to be honest, I wrote: 'Yes, I am afraid of war too. All people are.' Yet I wished to reassure him in a way and I added a sentence, which I hope is right. I wrote: 'But you know so many people in all countries on Earth wish peace, wish that an end is put to all wars. And you will see that this is going to happen ultimately. People will achieve what they wish most -- peace on Earth.'

Dear Mr. Gorbachev, I believe that you are doing everything in your power so that our children should not live in permanent fear of war. And I hope that this peace conference will be a step forward on that long, difficult road to long-awaited peace." Astrid Lingren.

The woman writer read the reply letter from Mikhail Gorbachev. It said: "Dear Mrs. Astrid Lingren, I am deeply grateful to you for your letter. Your books are read by millions of Soviet children. These books teach kindness and responsiveness, and thus participate in bringing up the younger generation of our country too.

In your letter you described the Moscow forum as a 'ray of hope'. We also attach much significance to that event. Concern with mankind's future brought together in Moscow people, many of whom are well known not only in their countries, but also all over the world. Scientists, writers, politicians, businessmen, physicians and people in various fields of culture, religious figures expressed their views in the discussions on the main problem of the present. There were many views and appraisals, and a lot of disputes, but one thing in common for all participants manifested itself: It is the wish that civilization should survive, that the nuclear intimidation strategy be replaced with the strategy of trust and strengthening of peace and be pursued without delay.

Thinking of peace is thinking of children. Nobody has the right to conduct things in the international arena in such a way that children, wherever they may live, be deprived of the future, become victim of the ill-considered policy of the grown-ups. I wish to assure you and your little compatriot who asked you the question about war: We in the Soviet Union will do everything in our power to prevent a world catastrophe, so that those who make their first steps in life, should step over the threshold by the end of the century, behind which the threat of nuclear war should be left forever. It is precisely for such a safe and reliable peace that we intend to work for perserveringly together with all on our unique planet.

I wish you, Mrs. Lingren, good health and fresh successes in your creative activities ser ing the interests of peace and progress.

Thank you for the book you sent to me,

Mikhail Gorbachev.

I am deeply touched by the fact that the Soviet leader answered my letter, the woman writer told the ceremony in the Soviet embassy, answering the questions of the local and Soviet newsmen. This is a very clever and profound letter. What is expressed in it coincides with my idea that it is necessary to save the planet's peaceful future, to preserve peace for our children, for all living people. It clearly and convincingly follows from the Soviet leader's letter that the Soviet Union works precisely in that direction, which must be welcomed. People of all trades in all countries of the world should work for peace jointly, since this is so natural and necessary to all of us, Astrid Lingren said. Therefore I would wish to thank Mikhail Gorbachev, again for that letter and the warm wishes addressed to me.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS CONGRATULATES HELMUT KOHL

LD121256 Moscow TASS in English 1220 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 12 TASS -- The Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. sent a telegram of congratulations to Helmut Kohl in conjunction with his election as federal chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The telegram expressed the hope that relations between the U.S.S.R. and the F.R.G. will be developing in accordance with the Moscow treaty for the benefit of the peoples of both countries and in the interests of averting the nuclear threat, enhancing universal security and strengthening peace.

TASS NOTES START OF NATO 'WINTEX-87' MANEUVERS

LD051455 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1017 GMT 4 Feb 87

[Text] Brussels, 4 Mar (TASS) -- TASS correspondent Albert Balebanov reports:

The large-scale NATO command-and-staff exercises code-named "Wintex-87" opened this morning in the capitals of 13 out of 16 member-countries of this military and political bloc. Not taking part are France, Greece, and Spain.

Tens of thousands of people -- staff of defense ministries, representatives of headquarters of military units, heads of civilian agencies, and members of governments -- are involved in the maneuvers, which will last until 17 March. They will rehearse their actions in accordance with various scenarios of international crises and armed conflicts. All those "scenarios," as BELGA points out, have been written with the aim of bringing the conditions in which the exercises are being held "as close as possible to a real military action."

"The rehearsals" of a nuclear war are being contrived by the Pentagon and the NATO bloc to take place on European soil, in close vicinity to the borders with the USSR and other countries of the socialist community. But in the plans of their military operations, the Atlantic strategists invariably attempt to represent the Soviet Union as a conventional "aggressor." The exercises are of a clearly provocative nature, which is out of tune with the true interests of the European people, who are striving for a lasting and reliable peace.

The "Wintex-87" maneuvers, as all Atlantic militarist games, are based on the doctrines which rely on the principle of being first to use nuclear weapons. The NATO scenarios of maneuvers and sundry crises reflect one fact: the adamance of their authors indenying the need for new political thinking in the nuclear age, and in abandoning actions that destablize the international situation in favor of those that strengthen peace on the basis of trust and mutual security.

FRANCE USING KERGUELEN FOR NUCLEAR TESTS

LD042031 Moscow TASS in English 1630 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 4 TASS -- By TASS news analyst Valeriy Vavilov:

Kerguelen, a volcanic island lost in the expanses of the Indian Ocean, has lately riveted the attention of the French military command. Large amounts of equipment have been delivered there, powerful explosions are rocking the island, and French naval ships and air force planes are involved in the operation.

According to official reports from Paris, "scientific experiments are in progress" on the island "to study the structure of the earth crust."

The press, however, has interpreted these experiments in a different manner -- in actual fact preparatory work is under way to build a new nuclear test center on that island. It will be used instead of the existing nuclear test range situated on the island Mururoa in the Pacific.

Perhaps, French authorities have heeded the voice of protest of the people living in the southern part of the Pacific who proclaimed that region a nuclear-free zone late last year. For the Rarotonga Treaty signed by the nations of that region manifestly prohibits any nuclear explosions as well as the burial of radioactive wastes within the limits of the zone covered by the agreement.

Perhaps this is the reason why French authorities have decided to transfer their testing facility to another part of the planet -- to an island in the Indian Ocean situated thousands of kilometers from densely-populated regions?

The answer is "no, by no means". It turned out that Mururoa Island is no longer suitable for that. 83 nuclear devices were detonated there since June 1975. In the opinion of experts, this has caused geological conditions of the island to deteriorate. It has become an extremely dangerous place from the standpoint of radiation leaks. The level of permeability of its geological structure is very high. The atoll has sustained fractures and has become useless as a site for the burial of radioactive wastes.

Paris is apparently unprepared to think in terms of a nuclear weapon-free world. This is evidenced among other things by France's new military program designed for the period from 1987 until 1991. The plan calls for the modernization of the country's nuclear arsenal, the replacement of strategic missiles based on submarines, the development of land-based mobile strategic missiles, as well as of new tactical nuclear missiles that can be fitted out with either an atomic or a neutron warhead.

Such a wide-scale program for nuclear arms build-up requires an experimental base. This is what explains France's intention to build a new nuclear testing facility in the Indian Ocean.

Such a stand organically combines with a negative attitude to Franch missiles in Europe. Demonstrating its loyalty to Atlantic solidarity, France comes out in favor of keeping American nuclear weapons on the European continent at any cost.

In a demonstration of a deficit of new thinking, French authorities are opposed to the prospect of ridding Europe from a substantial portion of the nuclear burden and are unwilling to seek and find mutually acceptable solutions in the interests of a nuclear weapon-free and non-violent world. Instead, they are drafting new plans for the arms race, including the race in nuclear arms. The construction of a nuclear test range on Kerguelen Island is but one more step in that dangerous direction.

GREENLAND ELECTIONS IN MAY OVER U.S. RADAR

LD111120 Moscow TASS in English 1043 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] Copenhagen March 11 TASS -- Greenland's head of government Jonathan Motzfeldt has said he is going to call general elections in May in connection with a government crisis over the Pentagon's modernization of a radar at the U.S. air base in Thule.

He announced his intention following the failure of attempting to overcome disagreements in the coalition government which consists of representatives of the Siumut and Inuit Ataqatigiit parties.

The government crisis erupted after the latter party's chairman Arqaluk Lynge sharply criticized the head of government for allowing the U.S. radar to be modernized.

Greenland, which has the right of internal self-government, is part of Denmark.

There have been sharp debates in the political circles of that largest island in the world over the completion of the project to modernize the radar since modernization is merely the cover story for the construction of a practically new phased-array radar.

This new system will be able to detect and locate targets thousands of kilometers away from Greenland. It is expected that the Pentagon will use the radar as part of an array of weapons developed under the "Star Wars" program.

Moreover, the modernization scheme, many prominent American experts point out, contradicts the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missiles Systems.

The prospect of becoming accomplices to the Pentagon in its intention to undercut this highly important treaty and being drawn into the U.S. "Strategic Defense Initiative" has aroused wide-spread concern in the political quarters of both Greenland and Denmark.

The U.S. radar issue will be the central in the forthcoming elections.

W. EUROPEAN REACTION TO GORBACHEV INF PROPOSAL

Mitterrand: French Deterrent

PM091153 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent Yu. Kovalenko dispatch under the general heading "Realism Should Triumph" and the headline: "In Accordance with French Interests"]

[Text] Paris -- "I familiarized myself with genuine interest with M.S. Gorbachev's recent proposals on U.S. and Soviet medium-range missiles," French President F. Mitterrand has stated, addressing a cabinet session. "The prospect of scrapping these weapons accords with French interests and the cause of peace."

"As for France," the President continued, "it maintains its position: Its nuclear forces guarantee its security through deterrence and cannot be included in medium-range nuclear weapons or taken into account at the talks between the U.S. and Soviet sides."

At the same cabinet session, Prime Minister J. Chirac noted the coincidence of views on this question between the president and the government. France, he said, does not participate in the talks, since its deterrence forces are different in character from medium-range nuclear missiles.

According to AFP, F. Mitterrand's statement was aimed at amending the initial French reaction to the Soviet proposal, which was negative and discordant. [paragraph continues]

F. Mitterrand, an AFP telegram quoting the president's entourage stated, would not have had to amend Paris' reaction if the Foreign Ministry had consulted the Elysee Palace before issuing the communique. In the president's opinion, the position of the West European states with regard to the recent Soviet proposal should be coordinated.

Despite the fact that after a certain hesitation heads of state and government made a positive assessment of the Soviet initiative, a number of leaders of right-wing parties and the Socialist Party attacked the proposal to eliminate medium-range missiles and demonstrated their unshakable adherence to nuclear thinking.

Mitterrand Clarifies Stand

LD1C2306 Moscow TASS in English 2222 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Paris March 10 TASS -- President Francois Mitterrand of France reaffirmed that his country looked with approval at the Soviet-American talks on the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe, as proposed by the Soviet Union. President Mitterrand said so in his remarks in the French Diplomatic Press Association today.

Precisely Western countries, the French president went on, proposed the "zero option" in relation to the medium-range missiles in Europe and it would be wrong if they renounce their former stand only because it was the Soviet Union which advanced the idea that time.

"We are saying 'yes' to the negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union, but I am happy that France is not taking part in them because they are dealing with the types of armaments we do not have," the French president said. This is why neither France nor Britain will have to give up their forces.

France, the president emphasized, will not hold talks on its strategic nuclear forces, because, in his words, they ensured deterrence and because the "security of France rests" precisely on them.

Given the current situation, he said, no one can demand a reduction in the French nuclear forces the nature of which is strategic.

Touching on the French tactical missiles with a small range (Hades and Pluton types) the president admitted that at a certain stage of Soviet-American talks concerning the comparable class of missiles the question of counting the French systems could arise. "When that problem emerges it will have to be discussed," Francois Mitterrand said.

The president said that France agreed with balanced disarmament in all fields and believed that it should be verifiable. He added that the security of France rested both on its deterrence forces and on the North Atlantic Alliance.

'Discordant' Note in France

PM051503 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 4

[Dispatch by unnamed own correspondent: "The Voice of Paris Sounds a Discordant Note"]

[Text] Paris -- A few hours after the Soviet Union proposed concluding an agreement to eliminate Soviet and American medium-range misiles in Europe, the French Foreign Ministry published a communique, whose essence boils down to the following: 1. The French Government's position on this question has not changed; 2. In view of the existing imbalance in conventional and chemical types of weapons in Europe, it is necessary to avoid the removal of nuclear weapons from West Europe.

We will leave on the communique writers' conscience the allegation of an imaginary imbalance of forces in the Warsaw Pact countries' favor and point out that the voice of official Paris has sounded a plainly discordant note among the positive responses to the new Soviet initiative in West European capitals. It has now become the norm that, whenever the Soviet Union advances a proposal aimed at achieving nuclear disarmament, France at once demonostrates its allegiance to the bomb.

In his 16 February statement at the Moscow forum, M.S. Gorbachev showed the complete groundlessness of the nuclear deterrence doctrine, which is essentially a policy of threats. At the Geneva Disarmament Conference 2 days later, French Foreign Minister J.-B. Raimond declared that there is no alternative to the nuclear deterrence doctrine and again advocated keeping American Pershing and cruise missiles in West Europe.

In the early eighties, the slogan "Neither SS-20's nor Pershings" was taken up on the banks of the Seine. But now that Moscow is proposing the elimination of Soviet and American missiles, this initiative has been given an almost hostile reception in Paris.

At first, French official circles were opposed to the French nuclear forces' being taken into account in the general reckoning. The Soviet Union, as is known, made concessions on that issue. Now France does not want its neighbors to be delivered from transatlantic missiles. According to LE FIGARO, at the recent NATO meeting in Brussels, it was Paris that warned its allies of the "danger" posed by the Soviet "peace strategy" and the total disappearance of nuclear weapons.

To be fair, we will point out that a number of statesmen, including President Mitterrand, have repeatedly made statements in favor of reducing nuclear arsenals and achieving equilibrium at the lowest possible level. But here words have been and still are plainly at variance with deeds. Here is further confirmation of this: The draft of France's new military program for 1987-1991, which places chief emphasis on modernizing the nuclear triad, will be discussed at the spring session of parliament, which opens in early April. In short, the country is preparing to enter the third millennium fully armed with nuclear weapons.

To this end, Paris is continuing nuclear explosions at Mururoa Atoll in the South Pacific in defiance of protests from states in that region.

The times when the majority of French people supported the authorities on the issue of nuclear weapons are long gone. More and more French people now advocate their abandonment, consider it necessary to reduce spending on military purposes, and condemn the decision to deploy cruise missiles and Pershings in West Europe. According to a poll conducted by the newspaper LIBERATION, the majority of West Europeans, including French people, seek independence from the United States and NATO in the military respect and are certain that they themselves will be able to ensure their own defense, and do so by using conventional, not nuclear, arms. Only one French person in four considers it expedient to maintain military ties with the United States. "Uncle Sam's nuclear umbrella has lost its charm," LIBERATION concludes.

"The 'nuclear safe-conduct' is not infallible or endless," M.S. Gorbachev declared at the Moscow forum. "It could at any moment turn into a death sentence on mankind." It is precisely this that Paris stubbornly refuses to understand.

Chernyshev on British View

LD102036 Moscow TASS in English 1903 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 10 TASS -- By TASS military writer Vladimir Chernyshev:

Several years ago London in every way advertized the "zero option" proposed for resolving the problem of medium-range missiles in Europe and used it to justify the siting of U.S. Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in Western Europe.

Thanks to the new Soviet initiative, a realistic opportunity appeared for making that option a reality. Naturally enough the Tory government will find it embarrassing to protest against it, considering its past statements. But at the same time any amount of progress in nuclear disarmament plainly does not suit it. Hence, the choice of some other ways for putting up obstacles on the road toward a nuclear-free Europe.

One example of such an approach is the interview granted by the British secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, Sir Geoffrey Howe, to the ITV Television Company.

One can see in it the entire, if your permit, "gentleman"'s set of arguments used by London to demonstrate how "complex" the process of elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe is and how important it is to accompany it with a series of reservations and conditions.

First of all, in the opinion of the British secretary, an indispensable condition for an agreement on medium-range missiles is its linkage with the guarantee of the possibility for the U.S. to build up tactical nuclear weapons in Europe, because, as he views it, here lies the Soviet threat to Western Europe. But the British nuclear forces in any case remain "untouchable". Moreover, the British Government repeatedly stated that the country's nuclear forces should be modernized (in practice this means a more than ten-fold increase in their destructive power). It is not accidental that such a stand was described even in Great Britain as devoid of all logic.

Sir Geoffrey Howe makes accent on the "factor" of conventional armaments as the main trump card among all kinds of reservations. Things are pictured in such a way that without American missiles Western Europe may fall victim to the Soviet Union's "superiority" in conventional armaments and armed forces.

Nothing could be further from reality. In fact, there exists a rough balance in that sphere. The rt. hon. secretary of state would be well advised to study reports of the London Institute for Strategic Studies and the Brookings Institution (USA).

The latter said in its report that the correlation of conventional forces was not only closer to parity, but rather in the West's favor.

If we assess the correlation of conventional armaments and armed forces objectively, looking at facts, the picture would be as follows as regards the basic parameters: NATO and the Warsaw Treaty Organization have an approximately equal over-all personnel strength and roughly equal amounts of artillery. The Warsaw Treaty is slightly superior in armor. NATO has an edge in the number of divisions ready for combat, in anti-tank systems, in fighter-bombers which is set off on the Warsaw Treaty's side by a somewhat bigger number of air defense interceptor-fighters. In general, there exists a rough balance of conventional armaments.

So why did the British secretary find it necessary to take into the light the obsolete bugbear of the "Soviet military threat"? The answer to this question is found in his own pronouncement to the effect that the Tory government remained committed to the idea of maintaining nuclear defense, including independent British nuclear deterrent.

Sir Geoffrey Howe is concerned over the possibility that the U.S.S.R. and the U.S. may make the first step toward a nuclear-free Europe. And this indeed poses a threat to the British nuclear forces, to Britain's "nuclear status". London is clearly unwilling to give up its membership in the nuclear club of the "chosen ones".

IZVESTIYA on Thatcher Remarks

PM091239 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent A. Krivopalov report under the general heading "Realism Should Triumph" and the headline: "Westminster on Moscow's Step"]

[Text] London -- Discussions in the House of Commons have shown that the statement by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, has aroused profound interest.

Naturally, it was no accident that the first question was asked by the Conservative P. Lilley, who asked the prime minister to confirm that without the West's firm stance this proposal would not have been made by the USSR.

M. Thatcher: Yes, the agreement on medium-range nuclear missiles was singled out as providing for progress in this area when I met with President Reagan last November [sentence as published]. The fact that Mr Gorbachev accepts this without linking it to SDI is a useful step forward. There is still a great deal of work to be done. I absolutely agree that the West's firm resolve was a decisive factor in our nearing this stage.

N. Kinnock. Labour Party leader: Assuming that the prime minister welcomes M.S. Gorbachev's proposal and the positive U.S. reaction to it, does she not agree that it would now be wrong to link the elimination of medium-range missiles with the reduction of operational and tactical forces as a precondition?

M. Thatcher: After meeting with President R. Reagan at Camp David, we agreed that priority should be given to medium-range missiles -- particularly in the light of operational and tactical systems, in which the USSR has an advantage, in order to deal with both at the same time.

Praising the West's "firm stance" as being virtually an incentive to progress at the talks on disarmament -- primarily nuclear disarmament -- means essentially turning everything upside down. How forgetful the prime minister is or how inefficient her advisers are in failing to remind M. Thatcher that it has long been established (including by London's Institute of Strategic Studies) that in terms of conventional arms, approximate equality of military forces exists between NATO and the Warsaw Pact Organization.

FRG Politicians on Proposals

PM100921 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[Own correspondent Yu. Yakhontov dispatch: "Common Sense Gaining Ground; FRG Politicians and Press on New Soviet Initiatives"]

[Text] Bonn, 6 Mar -- "In separating the problem of medium-range missiles from the entire range of arms, M.S. Gorbachev has removed the most difficult of all the obstacles before the decisive phase of the East-West talks. It is essentially a proposal to break through the deeply echeloned walls of mutual distrust.... This means that the arms race can be halted," the Bonn newspaper GENERAL ANZEIGER editorialized. The newspaper published the full text of the Soviet document, allowing its readers to judge for themselves about the essence of the proposals contained in it.

Even the FRG Government has reacted unusually swiftly -- no more than an hour after the radio and TV brought to the banks of the Rhine the news from the banks of the Moscow River, an official Bonn spokesman already was stating that the cabinet welcomed the Soviet proposals and hoped that the USSR and the United States would soon hold talks. True, Federal Chancellor H. Kohl is still silent. Local observers believe that he will not speak out on the subject before 17 March, when he will issue the new cabinet's program statement.

As for Foreign Minister H.-D. Genscher, he has recently been in great demand. All the mass media wanted to know what the world's longest-serving foreign minister would say about the Soviet proposals. H.-D. Genscher's first statement was published back on 2 March. Since then the minister has had to give repeated interviews, supplementing and developing what he said.

What ideas in his recent statements attract attention? In particular, the minister recalled that the "zero option" was originally a Western demand. Now it can be implemented thanks to the USSR's realistic position. In the West, the minister said, the opinion is gaining ground that the "zero option" and the talks that would follow it in order to establish equal ceilings for operational-tactical missiles are in line with European interests. As for the difficulties of monitoring [kontrol] or verification [proverka], they are entirely soluble. FRG Economics Minister M. Bangemann, chairman of the free Democratic Party -- to which Genscher belongs -- was also positive. He warned against any attempts to hedge the Soviet proposals around with additional conditions.

V. Ruehe, deputy chairman of the Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union [CDU/CSU] faction in the Bundestag, told this PRAVDA correspondent:

"The faction welcomes the fact that, in making its new disarmament proposals, the Soviet Union has cleared away one of the main obstacles preventing the conclusion of an agreement to implement the 'zero option.' It is now a matter of ensuring that the Geneva talks are held rapidly and are geared to reaching a result which could ultimately resolve outstanding difficult issues."

It is a question, for instance, of ensuring that an agreement on a zero option for medium-range missiles (SS-20, Pershing-2, and cruise missiles) contains a specific commitment that further talks will be held in order to ensure that the next step concerns the reduction of operational-tactical missiles and that both sides are entitled to equal ceilings. In other words, Ruehe believes, the Soviet Union should give West Europeans the same right of security that it enjoys itself. Finally -- the "zero option" must be reliably verifiable [kontrol], which also envisages on-site inspection [proverka]. Judging by our conversation, roughly the same viewpoint is held by another person in the Bonn Defense Ministry -- State Secretary L. Ruehe.

On the whole, these figures stand by the government position, although Mr Ruehe, if one ponders on his words, demands the "right" to "arms upgrading" -- only now in the shape of small missiles. I do not think that it would be sensible to scrap one class of nuclear missile arms and simultaneously build up another. But there are figures in Bonn who go much further in their stipulations. For instance, A. Dregger, chairman of the CDU/CSU faction, and other like-minded people on the extreme right wing of this bloc are trying to state their maximum program, whose aim is to block any agreement. Discussing those in the FRG who cannot imagine a world without missiles, FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU notes confusion and panic in their ranks. They had thought, the newspaper writes, that the "zero option" was a toy that could be given to stupid people advocating peace, since you could be completely sure that the Soviet Union would be intransigent. But Gorbachev has ruined their entire game."

DIE WELT -- that mouthpiece of the FRG's most reactionary forces -- rumbles and thunders. It is angry at the positive reaction in the world to the USSR's proposals. The newspaper roundly attacked W. Altenburg, formerly general inspector of the Bundeswehr and now chairman of NATO's Military Committee. This by no means left-wing military man "went so far" as to react positively to the USSR's initiative, stating that it "will make the United States act" and "takes NATO's interests into account."

To put it in a nutshell, the Soviet Union no sooner clears away one impediment to the creation of an atmosphere of confidence and achieving disarmament than volunteers immediately come forward to erect another. But can such a thing really go on forever under present conditions?

The overwhelming majority of the West German population, a major party such as the Social Democratic Party, as well as the "Green" Party and the German Communist Party [DKP], the antiwar movement, and many trade union and other organizations actively support the USSR's 28 February proposal. They are demanding that the FRG Government finally heed the voice of the country's public and use its influence on the White House to urge it to not miss this historic chance leading to nuclear disarmament. DKP Chairman H. Mies sent a telegram to the Bundestag chairman, all its factions, and the chancellor urging them to hold a special parliamentary session to debate the Soviet initiative and support it in the interests of creating a Europe free from the nuclear threat.

JORDAN'S KING HUSAYN RECEIVES ENVOY SYTENKO

PM111640 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Practical Steps Are Needed"]

[Text] Amman, 8 Mar -- King Husayn of Jordan received M.D. Sytenko, special Soviet envoy, who arrived in Amman to conduct Soviet-Jordanian consultations on questions concerning the situation in the Near East. During the conversation it was noted with satisfaction that the idea of calling an international conference on the Near East is meeting with the growing support of the international community. Both sides expressed their opinion of the necessity of urgent practical steps to lift the deadlock in the conflict situation in the Near East.

Crown Prince Hasan, Zaid al-Rifa'i, prime minister of Jordan, and A.I. Zinchuk, USSR ambassador to Jordan, took part in the meeting.

PRAVDA'S DEMCHENKO INTERVIEW BY SYRIAN PAPER

PM111621 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 5 Mar 87 p 3

[Interview with PRAVDA Deputy Chief Editor Pavel Demchenko by AL-BA'TH editor in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpts] Pavel Demchenko, the well-known political writer, leading journalist, and deputy chief editor of the Soviet newspaper PRAVDA, is currently visiting Syria at the invitation of the AL-BA'TH establishment. AL-BA'TH had the following interview with Comrade Demchenko:

Editor: What is more important than convening an international conference on the Middle East is the Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and reaching a just settlement for the Palestine problem. How do you view this problem?

Demchenko: The Soviet Union's attitude toward the Middle East problem proceeds from the following premise: The situtaiton cannot be settled nor can the problem be resolved through war. Therefore, it is necessary to resort of all political means, but this does not mean proceeding and moving from weak positions. Quite the contrary, it is necessary to proceed and move from "strong positions". This requires that the Arab countries have strong and vigilant armed forces in addition to the need for cooperation between the Arab countries. In our view through these two conditions the United States and Israel will be forced, on regional and international levels, to convene such a conference. In other words such a conference should be held from strong positions.

Editor: How do you view this conference, what would be its tasks, and what would be its form?

Demchenko: With regard to its tasks: The elimination of the consequences of the 1967 Israeli aggression, withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, and realization of the Palestinian people's just rights. With regard to the form of the conference: We have presumed from the beginning that all the countries concerned would take part in the conference but this was done without referring to the identity ofthe countries concerned. But there is no doubt that clearly this would mean Syria, Egypt, Jordan, and the PLO. Subsequently it has become necessary for Lebanon to participate in addition to the other Arab countries concerned and likewise the Soviet Union and the United States in its capacity as the ally of Israel.

We understood that our participation with the United States in this conference would provide the desired balance in an international conference.

Later still came the French proposal providing for the participation of all the permanent member states of the Security Council. At that time Britain was hesitant while the rest of the council members agreed and so did the Arab countries. The PLO said that it will participate if officially invited.

With regard to the Israeli attitude, it is against convening such a conference. It adheres to holding direct bilateral talks with the Arab countries.

Recently the EC statement was clearly in support of convening this conference. Which means that Britain agrees albeit reluctantly. As for Yitzhaq Shamir he categorically rejected the conference. Why?

Because Israel is against the Soviet Union's participation in the conference as well as against PLO participation in any form. Shamir said that if this conference is held it will be without the participation of the Soviet Union and the PLO. In which case, in Shamir's view, the settlement will take place through the United States. We are against this and so are the Western countries. They will not accept that the solution of the problem should be in the hands of the Americans alone because this is contrary to their interests in the area:

In spite of all this the Soviet Union will continue making efforts for the convening of this conference. Last Saturday we issued a statement supporting the EC declaration. Obviously, the United States and Israel in the light of these developments have become isolated in the Middle East. With regard to the linchpin in the preparation for this conference, it is the strong alliance between the Soviet Union and Syria. This alliance is as good as can be.

Editor: The militant relations between our parties, peoples, and government are solid and strong. But are they on a par with the level of media relations between the two countries?

Demchenko: Soviet-Syrian relations in the media field are characterized by the existence of good rounds and great, extensive resources for developing them to the required level. This positive element exists between the newspaper AL-BA'TH and the newspaper PRAVDA. We are seeking to develop and expand these relations and promote them in a manner that would serve our common interests. There are also similar relations between the newspaper AL-THAWRAH and the newspaper IZVESTIA as well as between the news agencies TASS and SANA. With regard to the bilateral relations between Soviet television and Syrian television they are weak. I believe it is necessary to expand them particularly since millions in both our countries watch television. We have so much that can be screened in your country and, likewise, our people would enjoy much the programs you prepare. We earnestly hope that relations will improve in the near future, especially since the Syrian cosmonauts will shortly be taking off. The Soviet Union at this moment is preparing a special program regarding the joint space trip, particularly for Syria. It is also preparing for direct contact with the Syrian cosmonauts during the joint space flight. I believe that your people will watch these programs with interest.

Editor: U.S. and Zionist threats against Syria and the national Arab liberation movement are continuing and becoming more strident [words illegible]. What is in your opinion the aim of these threats and concentrations and what are the world liberation forces required to do in the face of these threats.

Demchenko: First, there must be constant vigilance and caution. The United States is aiming at Syria in order to subjugate it the way it subjugated Egypt earlier during Al-Sadat's rule.

But Syria is quite different from Egypt. It is stable and unafraid; it is pursuing its principled policy with all patience and steadfastness. The Soviet Union has backed Syria militarily, politically, and in the media field. I personally wrote an article in PRAVDA in which I explained the U.S. designs against Syria. As you know, the U.S. fleet has withdrawn and the U.S. Administration retreated. Britain, which basically welcomes military presssure on Syria, has also retreated.

Editor: In the light of the meetings which you have held so far [words indistinct] in the field of Arab media?

Demchenko: During the meetings I have held so far I have learned with certainty that Syrian officials wish to develop this relationship. This was confirmed to me by Minister of Information Yasin Kajjuh; Director General of the al-Ba'th Establishment, Turki Saqr; SANA Director General Dr Sabir Falhut, and others. For our part we earnestly desire to develop this relationship. A certain motive for developing it is indeed evident in the joint Soviet-Syrian space experiment. At the end of March we will send Soviet journalists to Syria who will meet with Syrian scientific, media and social circles. They will meet with the families of the Syrian cosmonauts. They will write long articles in PRAVDA and in other Soviet papers about issues joint cooperation. I also think that Syrian journalists will visit Moscow and will talk about the joint Soviet-Syrian space experiment through the Syrian media.

Editor: The campaign of misrepresentation and falsehoods which [words illegible]. President Hafiz al-Asad replied to that unjust campaign by taking the initiative of calling on the United Nations to convene a preparatory committee meeting [words illegible].

Demchenko: In the media circles this initiative was called President Hafiz al-Asad's initiative. We have appreciated this initiative in view of its being very wise and a strong reply to imperialism an Zionism. We have supported this initiative and the need to convene such an international conference. This initiative has put the United States and the Western countries in an embarrassing situation. They were really afraid of holding such a conference which would uncover terror and those who practice it in the world and which would be fair to free men and strugglers. President al-Asad's initiative was a crushing blow to them and a great triumph for Syrian diplomacy. [passage omitted]

Editor: The British media recently reported that the Zionist entity possesses nuclear weapons. What is in your opinion the aim behind this and what is its effect on world peace in general?

Demchenko: Israel is an aggressive state and therefore it is natural that it should desire to possess nuclear weapons so that it might use them in intimidating the Arabs. I do not rule out this possibility. Israel probably possesses one bomb or more for use as a "boyey" against the Arabs in order to maintain its positions in the occupied Arab territories. But I do not think that Israel will resort to using nuclear weapons. We will not allow it. We must not forget that we have nuclear weapons and if Israel resorts to nuclear weapons then this would mean a new world war. This is not a threat to the Arab countries only but to all humanity.

World opinion is against Israel in this regard. Israel is afraid of the Soviet Union. As I have already said, it is no coincidence that Israel does not wish us to participate in an international conference on the Middle East.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN SONGAYLA'S LIBYA VISIT REPORTED

For Libyan reportage on the stopover visit by a Soviet delegation led by Songayla, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, including remarks made at the Tripoli airport, see the North Africa section of the 11 March Middle East & Africa DAILY REPORT.

KUNA NOTES ARRIVAL OF MILITARY MISSION IN MOSCOW

LD082100 Kuwait KUNA in English 1940 GMT 8 Mar 87

[By Khaled al-Tarrah]

[Text] Moscow, March 8 (KUNA) -- A Kuwaiti military mission, led by Assistant Chief Staff Brigadier (pilot) 'Abdul al-Aziz al-Sayegh, arrived here Sunday on a five-day official visit to the Soviet Union.

At hand at the airport to receive the mission were deputy director of the engineering department at the State Commission for Economic Relations With Foreign Countries, Admiral [words indistinct] and Kuwait's ambassador here 'Abd al-Mohsen al-Du'ayj.

Kuwaiti-Soviet talks are scheduled to open tomorrow on [words indistinct] issues and [words indistinct].

Kuwaiti-Soviet contacts [word indistinct] intensified recently with numerous exchange of visits made by officials in both countries, including the last July trip to Kuwait by chairman of the Soviet State Commission for External [words indistinct], [name indistinct].

Towards the end of 1984, [words indistinct] al-Sabah visited Moscow at the official invitation by the late Soviet Defence Minister Dmitriy Ustinov.

JOINT CULTURAL COOPERATION PROGRAM SIGNED WITH KUWAIT

LD101336 Moscow TASS in English 1231 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Kuwait March 10 TASS -- The USSR and Kuwait signed a program for cultural cooperation between them in 1987 and 1988 here today.

It provides for exchanges of visits by people in science, culture and the arts. The USSR will provide Kuwaiti students with 20 scholarships annually to undergo a full course of study at Soviet colleges and will also enroll Kuwaiti students in advanced training and post-graduate training courses.

Besides, the two countries will exchange copies of Arab and Islamic manuscripts on a reciprocal basis.

They will continue exchanging sport teams, coaches and other specialists in physical training and sports.

The program also calls for broader and closer cooperation in medical services and the medical science, including exchanges of information and specialists on the basis of requests and invitations by interested institutions.

TASS REVIEWS TRADE PROJECTS WITH ARAB STATES

LD101233 Moscow TASS in English 1145 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 10 TASS -- Economics and Foreign Trade Service reports:

-- The Soviet Foreign Trade Association "Selkhozpromexport", which is engaged in building, on orders from foreign partners, projects for agriculture, forestry, water economy and the food industry, has signed several contracts with Syrian organisations.

One of these contracts extends the terms of the stay in that country of a group of Soviet specialists who work in cooperation with their Syrian colleagues on agricultural projects. Besides, the Syrian Arab Republic will take delivery from the USSR of equipment and machinery for the cultivation of 21,000 hectares on the Meskene tract of land.

Under another contract, "Selkhozpromexport" will supply Syria with equipment to build irrigation networks in the area of the dam named after October 16.

-- The Soviet Union will ship equipment to lay gas mains and fit out compressor stations to Iraq. It is designated for the Nasiriya-Baghdad pipeline under construction with Soviet technological assistance.

The contract was signed by the Soviet foreign trade association "Tsvetmetpromexport" and Iraqi organisations. The deal is worth several tens of millions of roubles.

-- Soviet foreign trade organisations signed several contracts with Egyptian firms. Under a contract with "Tyazhpromexport" for instance, the USSR will deliver refractories for re-lining blast furnaces at the Helwan integrated iron-and-steel mill in Egypt. The enterprise was built in the Arab Repbulic of Egypt with Soviet technological assistance.

-- Work to overhaul blast furnace N2 at the metallurgical works in el-Hajar is over. This 2,000 cubic meters furnace has been put into service. The work was carried out by Soviet organisations in cooperation with their Algerian partners.

The Soviet foreign trade association "Tyazhpromexport" supplied equipment and materials for this work and also detailed specialists in a variety of fields under contracts with its partners in Algeria.

The works in el-Hajar is one of the major projects of Soviet-Algerian economic cooperation. A steel- and wire-making workshops, a blast furnace and coke-oven batteries -- the facilities of the plant's second stage -- were built and expanded with the technical assistance of the USSR.

YSP'S Al-BID VIEWS JUNE CONFERENCE, BILATERAL TIES

PM131057 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Interview with South Yemeni Leader"]

[Text] Aden, 11 Mar -- The Yemen Socialist Party [YSP] conference scheduled for June will analyze different aspects of revolutionary experience in Democratic Yemen, 'Ali Salim al-Bid, general secretary of the YSP Central Committee, stated in an interview with a correspondent of the journal NIDAL AL-SH'AB.

He described the forthcoming party conference as a turning point in the revolutionary process in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and in the strengthening of the democratic system in the country.

The general secretary of the YSP Central Committee spoke highly of the support given to Democratic Yemen by the Soviet Union. Soviet-Yemeni relations, he stressed, are principled and strategic. The Soviet Union has always been a most reliable friend, including at the most difficult periods.

IZVESTIYA NOTES SOVIET-SYRIAN CONSULTATIONS

PM131041 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Consultations Held"]

[Text] Damascus, 11 Mar -- Soviet-Syrian working consultations on certain international issues took place here 9-10 March. L.I. Mendelevich, member of the Collegium of the USSR Foreign Ministry, and A.S. Dzasokhov, USSR ambassador to the Syrian Arab Republic, had a detailed conversation with Syrian Foreign Minister F. al-Shar' and also met with other officials of the Syrian Foreign Ministry.

The Soviet side informed the Syrian side about the major Soviet foreign policy initiatives in the sphere of halting the arms race in the context of creating a universal system of security and of the USSR's policy of unlocking regional conflicts.

MOSCOW RADIO NOTES EXECUTIONS IN TEHRAN PRISON

NC120927 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1700 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Reports from Tehran indicate that 4 women and 14 men were executed by firing squad in Evin Prison in late February on charges of opposition to the ruling regime. One of the persons executed, Rasul Mohammadzadeh Shahriyari, was savagely tortured for a year.

The Tehran press recently reported, within the context of cases of human rights violations investigated by the UN Human Rights Committee in Geneva, that a number of prisoners had allegedly been released. However, information from Iran and other reports indicate that no political prisoners have been released in recent months, and that even those prisoners who have served their terms remain in detention. Moreover, it has been revealed that Lajevardi, a former Tehran prosecutor general who is known as the Evin executioner, once again occupies one of the positions at that prison.

SONGAYLA DELEGATION ENDS VISIT TO GHANA

PM130847 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "On the Anniversary"]

[Text] Accra, 11 Mar -- The USSR delegation headed by R.-B.I. Songayla, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, which had been here to participate in the events to mark the 30th anniversary of the proclamation of Ghana's independence, left for home yesterday.

During its stay in this African country the Soviet delegation had meetings and talks with J. Rawlings, chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC]; P.V. Obeng, PNDC coordinating secretary; and E. Don-arthur, secretary of the State committee for Economic Cooperation.

During the talks the Ghanaian side was briefed on the progress and goals of restructuring in Soviet society, and the USSR's peace initiatives aimed at curbing the arms race and preventing a nuclear catastrophe. The Soviet Union's course was understood and supported by the Ghanaian leadership. The importance of developing and strengthening Soviet-Ghanaian friendship and cooperation was stressed.

AFRO-ASIAN COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARRIVE IN MAURITIUS

LD121742 Moscow TASS in English 1314 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Port Louis March 12 TASS -- Mauritius welcomes the Soviet Union's efforts for world peace and against the war danger, wherever it may come from, the general governor of Mauritius, Veerasamy Ringadoo, said here. He received on Wednesday a delegation of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee who arrived here to attend celebrations on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of the independence of this insular state. Peace must be fought for today and not in the future, the governor-general stressed. This is the duty of all peoples.

Veerasamy Ringadoo highly appraised cooperation between Mauritius and the USSR. It sounds symbolic to us, he said, that independence anniversary celebrations coincide with the 19th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

On the same day the Soviet delegation was received by Ameerood Jugnauth, the prime minister of Mauritius. He stressed the importance of Soviet peace initiatives. The desire of the Soviet leadership to assert a new political thinking meets the demands of the nuclear age, the prime minister said. Not only does the Soviet Union raise important international problems but also suggest concrete ways of solving them, he said.

Ameerood Jugnauth said his government is committed to the principles of nonalignment, friendship between the nations, peace and security. He also expressed solidarity with the black majority in South Africa in their struggle for the abolition of apartheid.

KOSHELEV-LED DELEGATION VISITS MOZAMBIQUE

For reportage on a visit to Mozambique by a delegation led by Petr Koshelev, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, including a meeting with Mozambican Prime Minister Mario Machungo, see the Southern Africa section of the 6 March Middle East & Africa DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

BENIN PARTY DELEGATION VISITS MOSCOW

PM101607 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Mar 87 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Visitors From Benin"]

[Text] A Benin People's Revolutionary Party [PRPB] delegation headed by O. Batoko, member of the PRPB Central Committee and People's Republic of Benin minister of culture, youth, and sports, was in the Soviet Union 18 February through 2 March. The delegation had meetings at the CPSU Central Committee Party Organizational Work Section and International Section and was received at the USSR Ministry of Culture, the USSR State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports, and the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries. The visitors from Benin visited the Belorussian SSR.

The Benin comrades stated that they had been very impressed by the party organizations' intensive work on restructuring and on accelerating Soviet society's socioeconomic development in line with the decisions of the 27th party congress and the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum.

U.S. SAID READY TO EXPAND CHAD PRESENCE

PM111441 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Mar 87 First Edition p 5

[TASS reports: "The Situation in Chad Is Deteriorating"]

[Text] Tripoli, 10 Mar -- According to reports from Chad, the forces opposed to the Habre regime have blown up a bridge near the Chad-Cameroon border. The Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT) radio has pointed out that this action "testifies to the intensification of the liberation struggle in areas occupied by French troops."

According to the GUNT information service a special group of the Chadian National Liberation Army blew up a French Transall military transport aircraft yesterday. This operation was carried out on territory controlled by Habre's troops.

Washington, 10 Mar -- U.S. State Department spokesman Charles Redman announced here that Washington is ready to further expand the U.S. presence in Chad. He said that Gouara Lassou, Ndjamena's foreign minister, who has arrived in Washington on a visit, met with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and other State Department leaders Monday.

Increased US. military aid to Habre's forces was discussed at the talks.

'TIED VOTE' BROUGHT GORBACHEV TO LEADERSHIP

AU111535 Paris AFP in English 1520 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] Helsinki, March 11 (AFP) -- Mikhail Gorbachev was chosen as Soviet Communist Party leader two years ago after a tied vote at a Politburo meeting that was finally decided by Andrey Gromyko, a Gorbachev adviser said in an interview published here on Wednesday.

Mikhail Shatrov, a Soviet playwright and Gorbachev advisor, said in an interview published in the weekly SUOMEN KUVALEHTI, that the vote between Mr. Gorbachev and Moscow party leader Victor Grishin ended with a tie, four votes to four.

The chairman was the Foreign Minister at the time, Andrey Gromyko, who is now president. His vote was decisive, Mr. Shatrov said.

"Gorbachev's election shows how historical development might depend on one person," Mr. Shatrov said.

"If a person of the old Brezhnev school had been elected, the current reform policy would not have started," he said.

Mr. Shatrov also said that the political opponents of the Soviet Union in the West hope that the Kremlin fails in its reform policy.

"They fear that democracy and socialism, human and equal rights can be realized in the Soviet Union", he added.

APPOINTMENTS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS REPORTED

PM111431 [Editorial Report] The following resolutions, all signed by N. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and M. Smirtyukov, administrator of affairs of the USSR Council of Ministers, are carried in recent editions of Moscow SODRANIYE POSTANOVLENIY PRAVITELSTVA SOYUZA SOVETSKIKH SOTSIALISTICHESKIKH RESPUBLIK: OTDEL PERVYY in Russian.

Page 96 of No 5, 1987: The resolution "On the Appointment of Comrade A.M. Moskvichev as USSR Deputy Minister of Health" dated 16 December 1986; and the resolution "On Confirming Comrade V.P. Lakhtin as First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Bureau of Social Development on His Release From Duties as Deputy Chairman of the USSR Gosplan" dated 17 December 1986.

Pages 125-26 of No 6, 1987:

Page 125: The resolution "Appointing Comrade V.N. Kalchenko as USSR Deputy Minister of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry on Comrade V.M. Voyevodin's Release From Duties on His Retirement on Pension" dated 1 December 1986; and the resolution "Confirming Comrade A.S. Burkov as Chairman of the USSR State Labor Savings Bank Board and member of the USSR Gosbank Board on Comrade P.V. Ryndin's Release From His Duties on Retirement on Pension" dated 11 December 1986;

Page 126: The resolution "Appointing Comrade V.I. Zhiltsov as USSR Deputy Minister of the Electronics Industry" dated 11 December 1986; and the resolution "Appointing Comrade A.V. Glovatskiy as USSR First Deputy Minister of the Electronical Equipment Industry" dated 24 December 1986.

GORBACHEV ATTENDS WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

LD061528 Moscow TASS in English 1451 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 6 TASS -- A celebration meeting devoted to the International Women's Day was held today at the Bolshoy Theatre of Moscow. The meeting was presided by Mikhail Gorbachev, Andrey Gromyko, Nikolay Ryzhkov and other Soviet leaders.

A message of greeting of the CPSU Central Committee to the Soviet women was read out.

Zoya Pukhova, head of the Soviet Women's Committee, made a report at the meeting. She said: "We are observing the International Women's Day this year in a difficult, but extremely interesting time, when the Soviet society is being reorganized, when it is living through a period of civic maturing and patriotic bustle". Dwelling on the tasks facing the Women's movement today, she emphasized that women's councils which were being created everywhere would play an important role in drawing millions of women into the solution of ambitious tasks of the reorganization.

Zoya Pukhova said that the creative role of women was prominent today in the country's national economy, including the production and social sphere, in science, culture and education. This improves women's image in their own eyes, in the eyes of the labour collective, the family and the society.

The party counts on women's support. This was stated at the 27th CPSU Congress. A wish was expressed there that women's councils be revived and united into a single system with the Soviet Women's Committee at the head. The proposal was wholeheartedly supported in the country.

According to Zoya Pukhova, the peaceful foreign policy of the CPSU and the Soviet women is connected with plans of the development of our society. The readiness of all the women of the world, irrespective of their political convictions, to cooperate for the sake of peace, of ridding humanity of the threat of nuclear destruction is greater today than ever before. A world women's congress under the theme "No nuclear weapons by the year 2000, for peace, equality and development" due to be held next summer in Moscow will deal with this problem.

Additional Attendees Noted

LD061859 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1630 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Today in Moscow, at the Bolshoy Theater, a festive meeting of representatives of party, soviet and public organizations took place dedicated to International Women's Day. Those present greeted with applause Comrades Gorbachev, Aliyev, Vorotnikov, Gromyko, Zaykov, Ligachev, Ryzhkov, Chebrikov, Demichev, Dolgikh, Yeltsin, Slyunkov, Sokolov, Talyzin, Yakovlev, Biryukova, Dobrynin, Lukyanov, Medvedev, Nikonov, Razumovskiy and Kapitonov.

Deputy Chairmen of the USSR Supreme Soviet presidium and Council of Ministers, heads of ministries and departments, military commanders, front ranking women workers, and scientific and cultural figures were also in the presidium. [passage omitted]

PRAVDA CARRIES SOLOMENTSEV CONFERENCE SPEECH

PM251225 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Feb 87 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Conference at the CPSU Central Committee"]

[Text] A conference of chairmen of party control commissions under union republic Communist Party Central Committees and party kraykoms and obkoms was held at the CPSU Central Committee 20-21 February. Chairmen of party commissions under a number of party okruzhkoms, gorkoms, and raykoms, under party committees at all-union and union republican ministries and state committees, and under party committees at major enterprises and associations enjoying the rights of raykoms, and executive secretaries of party commissions under USSR Armed Forces political organs also took part in its work.

Taking part in the conference's work were G.P. Razumovskiy, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; I.V. Kapitonov, chairman of the CPSU Central Auditing Commission; senior officials from the CPSU Central Committee, the CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the AUCCTU, the Komsomol Central Committee, the Moscow CPSU Gorkom and Obkom, the USSR and RSFSR People's Control Committees, the USSR Prosecutor's Office, and the USSR Supreme Court; and representatives of other central organizations and departments and press organs.

M.S. Solomentsev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee, delivered a report on the restructuring of party control in the spirit of the demands of the time.

The purpose of the conference, the speaker noted, is to exchange experience of work under the conditions of restructuring and discuss tasks stemming from the guidelines of the 27th CPSU Congress and the Central Committee January (1987) Plenum. We must draw serious conclusions from the criticism made at the plenum with regard to the slackening of the role of control organs in the recent past. It is necessary to map out ways for more effective participation by party control organs in the solution of topical problems of Soviet society's development.

The problems of party control were raised in depth and on a large scale, in a Leninist fashion, in the materials of the 27th CPSU Congress and the Central Committee January Plenum. The party perceives control as a matter for all its organizations and party committees, and the stepping up of control as a necessary condition for progress. The Central Committee January Plenum noted that one of the reasons behind the serious omissions in cadres policy which occurred in the recent past was the slackening of the role of control organs, whose work was often limited to superficial inspections and the examination of various complaints and irregularities in daily life.

The activity of party control organs was stepped up under the influence of the Central Committee April (1985) Plenum's decisions. Party organizations and control organs started taking Communists more strictly to task for misdemeanors and abuses. Why was the question of party members' responsibility raised so urgently? Only because it is difficult to expect successes without strict accountability, without verification of execution, and unless Communists enjoy the utmost prestige among the people. Particularly now, under the conditions of restructuring.

The CPSU Central Committee Politburo, having approved the results of the CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee's activity last year, emphasized that the most important task of party control organs is to ensure efficient verification of the fulfillment of party decisions and to improve their control work. It follows from the Central Committee guidelines that, under today's conditions, party control organs must organize purposeful and efficient control of the progress of restructuring and acceleration. Control of cadres' work in the main avenues of socioeconomic progress and in every section of party, state, economic, and social life. Control of how restructuring is implemented by every Communist, and by leaders in particular.

To fulfill these tasks it is necessary, as the party demands, first, for the verification of execution to occupy a dominant position in the work of party control organs; second, to resolutely increase the demands made on cadres and all Communists regarding the fulfillment of Central Committee and government resolutions, the observance of party and state discipline, and the party member's pure and honest image; and third, to restructure the style and methods of control work and bring them into line with the nature and contents of the problems being solved by the party at the present stage. These demands are, bluntly speaking, high. The party does not set any simple tasks now. I think we have no reason to request that our own burden be lighter.

Now we must everywhere boost Communists' responsibility for solving the questions of intensification of production and preferential development of machine building and other sectors which determine scientific and technical progress. Leadership cadres must be held more accountable under conditions where enterprises, associations, and sectors are switching to complete financial autonomy and self-capitalizaton. It is important to bring to light and eliminate everything hindering the utilization of economic levers and the democratization of production management.

As a rule, the party Control Committee and a number of party control commissions focus their attention on major questions concerning the development of the national economy and its various links. For example, the Party Control Committee's inspection of progress in the introduction of automatic rotary and rotary-conveyor lines in the national economy was conducted on an intersectorial basis. It helped the ministries and departments concerned to perceive their failings more objectively and to map out ways to eliminate them. The result was that last year's targets for the introduction of automatic rotary and rotary-conveyor lines in the national economy were fully met. The main point was the cadres' attitudes toward this important avenue of scientific and technical progress started changing.

Practice shows that by no means all Communists in leadership positions are fully aware of the importance of scientific and technical progress. Inspections have shown that the Kazakh SSR Academy of Sciences failed to exert an effective influence on the development of science and of productive forces in the republic. Serious complaints were voiced against the leadership of the USSR Gosplan's Scientific Research Institute for Planning and Normatives. Inspections revealed the poor efficiency of developments by the All-Union Scientific Research Institute for Construction, Road, and Municipal Machine Building and by several other scientific research institutes. Hence one of the most important tasks of party control organs is to enhance the responsibility of leaders and all scientific, engineering, and specialist cadres for the work of scientific research, design, and technology institutes and VUZ's.

It is well known that the Central Committee and the government have adopted comprehensive measures for the improvement of output quality. [paragraph continues]

To solve this task is to take the highway of increasing economic efficiency. The commission's plans must more fully reflect questions concerning control of Communists' work to boost efficiency and quality in various sectors of the national economy, especially under the conditions of state acceptance of output.

It is well known that considerable sums of money are being channeled into the development of the agro-industrial complex' material and technical infrastructure and the improvement of rural working people's working and living conditions. The return on these sums is still poor in many regions. This is why efficient control of the work by cadres in all agro-industrial complex links for the rational utilization of equipment and land and for the application of modern technologies must be an important avenue of work by party control organs.

The Central Committee January Plenum stressed the exceptional urgency of inculcating in leadership cadres an awareness of the political importance attached to the solution of social problems. It is no secret, however, that pressing problems of the development of the social and cultural sphere were underestimated both centrally and locally for a long time. People in some places considered it almost a burden to build kindergartens and creches, or schools and polyclinics. The party resolutely condemned such approaches toward people's needs and requirements. The control of the implementation of the party's social policy must be conducted consistently and purposefully in all sectors and in all republics and regions in the country. An eye must also be constantly kept on the fulfillment of party and government resolutions concerning the struggle against unearned income and any attempts to make illegal money must be strictly eradicated, but at the same time no excesses must be allowed in this work.

Party control organs must take the most serious measures against those who, in V.I. Lenin's words, "make fraudulent use of the title of Communist and pursue in practice not a Communist but a bureaucratic and imperious [nachalnicheskaya] policy." For example, party control organs came across a bureaucratic style of leadership in the apparatus of the USSR Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry, which in 1986 alone issued more than 240,000 orders, directives, letters, and telegrams to enterprises and organizations. There has been no restructuring of the work style in Smolensk, Kherson, and some other oblispolkoms and their apparatus. Improvement in management also presupposes a resolute struggle against instances of overreporting, window dressing, and distorted reporting.

The report reflected the problems of the struggle against drunkenness and alcoholism. It was noted that the measures taken by the party have already produced encouraging results. Order and discipline have been strengthened in urban and rural areas, in production, and in public places, and absenteeism has been reduced. There are fewer crimes and traffic accidents committee in a state of intoxication. Demographic indicators have changed for the better.

The offensive against alcohol is not waged actively everywhere. Party control commissions under the Bashkir, Tyumen, Voroshilovgrad, and several other party obkoms were criticized for slackening the struggle against drunkenness and alcoholism. The struggle against moonshining is unsatisfactory. Coupons for the sale of alcoholic beverages were introduced in a number of places as a way of combating drunkenness. Facts prove this results in even nondrinkers getting used to drinking, as well as in speculation with coupons. It has to be said with the utmost clarity: The introduction of the coupon system is a gross violation of trading rules. Party control organs must investigate this locally and take the necessary measures.

The CPSU Central Committee orients party organizations and all Communists toward the need to step up the struggle against drunkenness, alcoholism, and drug addiction. Ideological cadres, medical workers, and law enforcement agencies must be held more strictly responsible for the organization of antialcohol propaganda and of preventive and educational work. The task of party control is to do everything for the successful implementation of the party line and the affirmation of the sober way of life.

M.S. Solomentsev went on to dwell on the need to ensure in every possible way the statutory guarantees of the purity of party ranks and to enhance the vanguard role of Communists in implementing cadre policy and the struggle against negative phenomena and against nationalist manifestations in particular. Party control organs carry out work connected with selecting the new party generation and cleansing party ranks of people unworthy of the lofty title of Communist. One cannot ignore the instances of deviations from Leninist principles of work with cadres and of the selection, placement, and education of cadres in some regions in the country.

The report analyzed the party's disciplinary practice on the basis of the results of work on appeals from Communists to the 27th CPSU Congress. It was noted that a solicitous attitude toward appellants was coupled with principledness and demandingness in evaluating their misdemeanors. At the same time, instances of a formal approach toward the investigation of personal cases occurred in a number of republican and oblast party organizations. Some party committees continue to shield Communists in leadership positions from accountability to primary party organizations and criticism from below. Such instances went unnoticed by party control commissions under the Novosibirsk, Dnepropetrovsk, Ryazan, and several other party obkoms. All this shows the need to wage an implacable struggle against liberalism, lack of principledness, and connivance, as demanded by the Central Committee January Plenum.

Much in the restructuring of work with cadres depends on improving the activity of party commissions under party okruzhkoms, gorkoms, and raykoms, which play significant role in the life of party organizations and in the strengthening of party and state discipline. Many party commissions still lack purposefulness and the ability to concentrate on the main issues of control. Some party committees unjustifiably narrow their field of activity and confine themselves only to the investigation of questions concerning admission to the party, personal cases, and citizens' letters and statements. The commissions for control of the administration's activity under primary party organizations need specific assistance. They must objectively monitor all aspects of the activity of enterprises, labor collectives, and every Communist. It is all the more annoying that people sometimes do not heed their voice.

A solicitous attitude toward letters and statements has been and still remains a firm rule for party control organs, M.S. Solomentsev stressed. The importance of this work is multiplied severalfold under the present conditions, when the party has embarked on a firm course of deepening socialist democracy and comprehensively developing publicity, criticism, and self-criticism. In this context, the report critically examined the work done on letters and appeals by the apparatus of the CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee. It is characteristic that Communists and even nonparty people have started turning to the party control commissions much more frequently. Serious shortcomings in the work of a number of ministries, departments, enterprises, organizations, scientific research institutes, and VUZ's came to light recently following statements by working people.

Letters about suppression of criticism deserve particular attention. Attempts by leaders of some ministries, departments, and party committees to silence critical reports in the press are absolutely intolerable. The Central Committee perceives such instances unambiguously: There can be no liberal treatment of those who do not heed fair criticism and persecute "troublemakers." However, party control commissions under the Central Committee and several obkoms of the Ukrainian Communist Party, under the Turkmen Communist Party Central Committee, and under the Irkutsk party obkom overlooked instances of suppression of criticism and violations of socialist legality. Therefore, comrades, it is an exceptionally important task to educate party members, and leaders in particular, in a spirit of profound awareness of the fact that criticism and self-criticism are immutable norms of Soviet democracy. The report emphasized the need for a most careful and thorough investigation of reports of various abuses by officials and violations of socialist legality.

In conclusion, the speaker dwelt on topical quesions concerning the restructuring of the style and methods of work by party control organs, and the broader implementation of this restructuring on a scientific and planned basis.

The conference was addressed by Party Control Commission Chairmen V.Ye Polyayev from Ulyanovsk CPSU Obkom, A.P. Botvin from the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, Sh.B. Karkarashvili from the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee, T.P. Arkhipova from the Moscow CPSU Gorkom, G.D. Smagliyenko from the Leningrad CPSU Obkom, S.S Palyora from the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee, and V.T. Golovan from the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee; Party Commission Chairmen I.I. Zmiyeva from Moscow Oblast's Yegorevskiy CPSU Gorkom and L.A. Shipovalova from Altay Kray's Shipunovskiy CPSU Raykom; V.I. Balakirev, executive sectetary of the Party Commission under the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; S.A. Shakhov, secretary of the Party Commission under the Black Sea Fleet Political Directorate; Party Commission Chairmen A.V. Strogankova from the "Gorkovskiy Avtozavod" Production Association's party committee and V.A. Levina from the USSR Ministry of the Communications Equipment Industry party committee; and others.

The participants in the conference assured the CPSU Central Committee and the Central Committee Politburo that the workers of party control organs will channel all their energy, experience, and knowledge toward specific deeds to strengthen cadres' responsibility, order, and discipline in all sections of party, state, and social life and to step up the struggle against various negative phenomena and everything that hinders the acceleration of the country's socioeconomic development.

SOLOMENTSEV, OTHERS ADDRESS GORKOM OFFICIALS

LD050600 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Text] At the Party, Soviet and Ideological Cadres In-Service Training Institute of the Social Sciences Academy at the CPSU Central Committee, courses for the first secretaries of the party Gorkoms of the republic, Kray, and oblast centers have ended. They were studying the current questions of the Marxist-Leninist theory and policy of the CPSU in the light of decisions of the 27th Party Congress, the Central Committee January plenum of 1987.

Comrades Zaykov, Solomentsev, Biryukova, Dobrynin, and Razumovskiy addressed the listeners.

VOROSHILOVGRAD OBKOM PLENUM ACCEPTS CRITICISM

AU101326 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 3 Mar 87 p 3

[RATAU report: "Resolutely Restructuring the Style of Work"]

[Text] An exacting and principled discussion on the causes of the serious shortcomings in the style and methods of work carried out by Voroshilovgrad Obkom and its bureau took place at the 27 February obkom plenum which examined the oblast party organization's task in conformity with the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee decision on the PRAVDA article "Overstepping the Mark." A report on the subject was delivered by A.A. Titarenko, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee second secretary.

The plenum found that the criticism to which the PRAVDA article submitted the obkom, its first secretary, B.T. Goncharenko, and other leaders for the shortcomings in the style of work, in the control of the economy, of the social sphere, and of the activity of law enforcement organs was justified and fair. In the oblast, there were blatant breaches of socialist legality. They were not always assessed correctly, sharply, and in time.

While analyzing the causes of the situation that had emerged, the plenum participants pointed out that the main cause consisted in the fact that the obkom, many gorkoms and raykoms were slow in ridding themselves of the obsolete, outmoded attitudes toward organizational and political work. Major problems concerning the development of the economy, the social sphere, and the cultural lives of people, problems which are topical in the present crucial period, were settled without adequate persistency.

While participating in the proceedings of the January CPSU Central Committee Plenum, A.Ya. Kolesnikov, stope team leader in the "Molodogvardeyskaya" mine and CPSU Central Committee member, said in his speech, I was thinking about what hindered restructuring in our oblast. In my opinion, many things have been held up for lack of efficiency. The decisions adopted by the obkom bureau were sharp, but control over their implementation was inadequate. Much energy was wasted in fruitless talk. This old style was taken up by the grassroots as well. What we need today is wise advice, samples of concrete acts like those given by the CPSU Central Committee. Attention has to be paid to good production conditions and to a sound moral atmosphere in which everyone would be willing to work with zest.

Party workers, economic leaders, and those who carry out decisions should be required to strictly account for the job.

The speakers noted that, in recent times, the obkom bureau and secretariat had lacked an atmosphere of high mutual exactingness and responsibility, of comradely confidence, an of openness in discussing shortcomings.

The obkom bureau took too easy an attitude toward the selection of leading cadres, N.F. Goncharova, poultry breeding team leader at the Novoaydarskaya poultry farm, pointed out. This resulted in serious miscalculations in economic control and blatant violations of socialist legality. As a member of the obkom bureau, she said, I can also see my own fault in this respect. We all, and primarily bureau and obkom members as well as obkom secretaries, must visit work places more frequently, consult people and listen to their opinions, fearlessly tell the truth no matter how bitter it is, have deep insight into the situation, and take practical steps.

Guided by the decisions of the January CPSU Central Committee Plenum, it was stated at the plenum that the obkom must radically improve work among cadres, their distribution and education. Now and then, party committees frequently reshuffle leading workers in an administrative way, and this practice causes serious harm. In the last 2 years, many leaders and specialists were replaced groundlessly in the mining industry and in agriculture. In appointing functionaries, publicity is frequently nonexistent, and no account is being taken of the opinions of basic party organizations and labor collectives.

The speakers pointed out that the obkom was a long way from always properly adhering to principles in assessing the activities of leaders who committed breaches and abuses. For example, in December 1986 the obkom bureau, while examining the progress made in implementing the CPSU Central Committee decision concerning the elimination of book-doctoring practices, confined itself merely to a general assessment of negative phenomena. No effective measures were mapped out to eliminate the causes of book-doctoring practices. In the meantime, directly doctored accounting figures revealed in industry and construction over 9 months alone amounted to R21 million. However, the obkom bureau did not bring any culprit to account.

The oblast party organization makes poor use of criticism and self-criticism, mainly as regards cadre education, promoting the responsibility of cadres, and eliminating shortcomings. In particular, this was stated at the plenum by E.A. Khananov, Lisichanskiy Gorkom first secretary. All of us obkom members, he said, bear responsibility for everything that happened in the oblast party organization and in the obkom bureau. Let us recall the way the obkom, as well as many gorkoms and raykoms, held their plenums. In the plenums party committee secretaries, particularly first secretaries, were seldom criticized and then only timidly. Under such circumstances, can we expect rank and file communists to be active and to adhere to principles?

Party committees do not make adequate use of the mass media, particularly to highlight the progress made in restructuring, in promoting openness, in fostering criticism and self-criticism. For this, the speakers pointed out, the obkom must seriously blame obkom secretary V.A. Mikhaylov, as well as the editors of oblast newspapers: E.N. Nikolayev of VOROSHILOVGRADSKAYA PRAVDA and A.P. Danilov of PRAPOR PEREMOHY. The papers, television, and radio are expected to show the seedlings of everything that is new, advanced, and emerging in the process of restructuring, and at the same time they are expected to eradicate mercilessly everything that is alien and obsolete, and to criticize negative phenomena, not in a narrow-minded manner, as they happened to do, but in a party-like, principled, interested, and well-substantiated way.

The obkom first secretary, B.T. Oncharenko, it was emphasized at the plenum, is to a large extent to be blamed for the situation that has emerged in the oblast party organization. Notwithstanding his positive qualities, in recent times he has begun to display excessive peremptoriness and elements of subjectivism. He has become inaccessible and harsh in his handling of people. This has affected the style of work performed by party committees and their first secretaries.

In acting with the same harshness and peremptoriness, I.I. Zaburdayen, Svatovskiy Raykom first secretary said, we fostered among people obsequious assiduity, submissiveness, and thus constrained their initiative and stifled creativity, but we do not need submissive performers now; we need creative people, capable of accomplishing great and complex tasks independently, capable of taking upon themselves the full weight of responsibility.

Also submitted to sharp criticism were R.P. Zverev, oblispolkom chairman, N.M. Popov, obkom second secretary; L.V. Romanenko and N.V. Bakumenko, obkom secretaries; and other obkom bureau members who frequently lacked adherence to principles and did not take pains to improve the work of the bureau and secretariat.

V.A. Mikhaylov, obkom secretary, gave a self-critical account of the serious omissions in the work performed by the obkom bureau and secretariat which still were slow in mastering the modern political methods of leadership. At the same time, obkom secretaries and bureau members were not sufficiently courageous and true to principles to tell each other the truth and to change the situation toward mutual confidence and frank discussions on shortcomings in the work. Gorkom and raykom first secretaries also lacked this courage.

The plenum also noted many good things that had taken place in the oblast. The Communists and all working people have supported the party's policy aimed at restructuring and have corroborated this posture with their work. There are many labor collectives, leaders, and specialists who work in a new way, with full returns, and who are mastering economic management methods. At the same time, the results could have been much better if all party organizations were permeated with the spirit of restructuring and the latter's requirements, if they had evaluated achievements in a more critical manner, and if they had promoted democratic principles more widely in production and public life.

The oblast is slow in putting into effect the reserves of production intensification and of accelerating scientific-technological progress. Many enterprises fall short of the plan for the sale of goods and for raising labor productivity, and the quality of goods is still poor. In the level of labor mechanization, the oblast holds one of the last places. There have been great losses in working time caused by stoppages and absenteeism. There have been strains in the first months of the current year. The oblast has fallen far short of the targets for industrial production, for utilizing capital investments, and for the transportation of national economic freight. At the same time, the obkom, and a number of raykoms and gorkoms are a long way from having done their best to remedy the situation.

The organs of the agro-industrial complex are slow in gathering force. The plenum noted that obkom Secretary L.V. Romanenko and oblast agro-industrial committee Chairman A.N. Bova had missed in their field of vision many issues concerning the intensification of agriculture and a more effective utilization of the potential that has been created in the countryside. Grain and sunflower yields have practically not increased for 15 years. Not even one crop has reached the per-hectare yields planned for irrigated lands. The productivity of the oblast's stockbreeding remains low.

Many party, administrative, and economic organs have not gotten down properly to settling social problems. In the oblast, problems concerning the provision of the working people with houses, public transportation services in the cities, the expansion of gas and water supply networks in localities, and the construction of cultural and educational institutions, particularly in the countryside, remain acute. The material base of the health services has been developing too slowly. Progress in the social reform of the countryside has been slow. Party committees, it was noted at the plenum, have been adopting many decisions on these issues, but have failed to ensure control over implementing the decisions, and have restricted themselves to half-measures.

While critically analyzing the causes of the shortcomings incurred and while specifying tasks for the future, the meeting participants emphasized the particular expediency of concentrating all forces and the entire organizational and political activity in order to ensure that the national economic plans for the current year and socialist pledges assumed in honor of the 70th anniversary of the Great October are fulfilled.

It is noted in the adopted decision that the obkom plenum accepted the conclusions and assessments made by the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee in its decision as a concrete sign of solicitude for the persistent implementation by each party organization in the republic of the line of the 27th party congress and the January 1987 CPSU Central Committee Plenum aimed at a resolute renewal in the style of work, at the pursuit of a principled cadre policy, and at observing the norms of internal party democracy.

As reported, the plenum examined organizational issues. In conformity with the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee decision, B.T. Goncharenko was relieved of his post. A.N. Dichenko was relieved of the duties of bureau candidate member and removed from the party obkom.

The plenum elected I.A. Lyakhov, hitherto chief of the Organizational Party Work Department in the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, as obkom first secretary.

GEORGIAN PREMIER DISCUSSES NATURAL DISASTER

PM061625 [Editorial Report] Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian on 25 February 1987 publishes on page 4, under the rubric "Man Against Nature" and the headline "Not Alone in the Misfortune," a 1,500-word interview with O.Ye. Cherkeziya, chairman of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers, by its correspondents R. Zlatkin and L. Kruglov.

The interview, conducted in Tbilisi on an unspecified date, is introduced by the following editorial note:

"People countered with courage and in an organized fashion the unprecedentedly heavy snowfall and rainfall which caused avalanches in Georgia's mountain regions and severe floods in the Kolkhida Depression.

"The immediate tasks facing the republic party organization in this connection were dealt with by a Georgian Communist Party Central Committee plenum held a few days ago, which heard a report by D.I. Patiashvili, first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee. SELSKAYA ZHIZN's correspondents asked O. Ye. Cherkeziya, chairman of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers, who heads the republic commission to combat the natural disaster, to describe the measures being taken in the republic for the swiftest liquidation of its consequences."

In reply, Cherkeziya speaks of the "swift and efficient work" done by the "two operational staffs set up at the most difficult time in January and early February in west and east Georgia and the government commission headed by V.S. Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee." He goes on:

"I would like to describe the scale of the disaster which affected one-third of our republic's territory. The damage it caused runs into tens of millions of rubles. Some 2,700 individual homes were destroyed and another 3,560 suffered serious damage. We must repair 650 schools, kindergartens, nurseries, hospitals, polyclinics, clubs, consumer service centers, and other projects for social and cultural purposes.

"The republic's agriculture suffered considerable losses. Some 80,000 hectares of fields, orchards, and plantations were damaged. A large number of livestock and poultry died. Hundreds of stockraising facilities were damaged. We have to repair 1,300 km of road. Some 20,000 people have been evacuated from the regions struck by the disaster. They have been given housing and jobs in their specialized fields. Every family that has lost its cow receives a single-payment subsidy. Unfortunately, loss of life could not be avoided. The avalanches and floods took 88 lives."

Asked about specific aspects of state assistance to the republic, Cherkeziya says:

"In 1987 we will build an additional area of 77,200 square meters of individual homes. Considerable sums have been appropriated for this purpose. Credits are being made available for the construction of cooperative farmstead-type homes in the settlements of sovkhozes and other state agricultural enterprises and associations. Construction materials, timber, slate, and cement are being supplied to the population in the regions that have been struck."

The last question covers the assistance given to Georgia by other USSR republics, and Cherkeziya concludes:

"The commission continues its work. Hard times lie ahead: Enormous masses of snow have built up in the mountains, and avalanches are still occuring. Major spring floods are building up. We must be on our guard."

300 MOLDAVIAN KOMSOMOL OFFICIALS DISMISSED

LD280827 [Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1415 GMT on 27 February carries a report on the 20th Moldavian Komsomol Congress. A report by Ilya Buzhinitsy, first secretary of the Moldavian Komsomol, disclosed that 300 secretaries of the Komsomol committees were released from their posts for being unable to cope with their work or for having compromised themselves by their behavior, that more than half the members elected by Komsomol bodies of various regions in the course of the last 2 years did not have any specific commissions and their only job was that of so-called representation, and that 8 members of the Komsomol Central Committee of the republic did not once speak at any session. In his report, these facts were explained by the absence of supervision from below. The commentator of the program, Alla Slonimirova, reporting from Kishinev, says that the explanation must be seen in cadre policies and that the right ideological leaders have not been elected. She points out that the above report showed signs of "form mania." The same raykoms were mentioned seven or eight times for behavior which is not at all to be regarded lightly -- such as breaches of financial discipline, doctoring the books, and falsifying records. Although some of the so-called leaders were cleared, others continue to flourish and think that restructuring only concerns their neighbors. Slonimirova concludes with the information that Semen Kuzmich Grossu, first secretary of the Moldavian CP Central Committee; Vladimir Pavlovich Shaplyko, secretary of the VLKSM; and the heads of ministries and departments of the republic took part in the 20th Moldavian Komsomol Congress.

YELTSIN ADDRESSES MOSCOW KOMSOMOL CONFERENCE

LD072116 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Text] Today the 27th conference of the Komsomol city organization is being held in Moscow. A pointed, principled conversation is going on about the need for Komsomol work to be radically restructured and the authority of the league enhanced.

For this it is essential, first and foremost, to develop democracy within the league and to enhance the independence of all sections in the Komsomol. It is essential to renounce decisively the pursuit of quantitative indices. Criticizing the shortcomings and commissions, participants at the conference are proposing concrete ways of overcoming them and naming examples of advanced experience.

Speeches were made at the conference by Comrade Yeltsin, candidate member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, first secretary of the Moscow Gorkom; and Comrade Mironenko, first secretary of the Komsomol Central Committee.

SOLOVYEV ATTENDS LENINGRAD KOMSOMOL CONFERENCE

PM041447 [Editorial Report] Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian in its 28 February 1987 First Edition publishes on page 2 under the headline "Are There Any Contacts?" a 1,500-word report by special correspondent T. Korsakova on the Leningrad Oblast Komsomol Conference. The report states that "the conference was addressed by Yu.F. Solovyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of Leningrad CPSU Obkom. N. Dolgushkin, secretary of the Komsomol Central Committee, took part in the conference's work."

KAZAKHSTAN STIFFENS PENALTY FOR KIDNAPPING

LD121043 Moscow TASS in English 1022 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Alma-Ata March 12 TASS -- The republican newspaper KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA today published an ordinance of the Supreme Soviet (Parliament) of that Soviet constituent republic in Asia that provides, among other things, for an imprisonment term of 7 to 15 years and the confiscation of property for the kidnapping of a child for ransom or other purposes.

The amendments and additions to the penal code of the republic were made following the demands of the Alma-Ata public shocked by a crime committed in the capital of Kazakhstan in late February. The case was an unprecedented one for the Soviet Union. For the first time in Kazakhstan a child (a nine-year old boy) was abducted for ransom.

Militia managed to find the kidnapped boy who had been tied and kept by his abductors on cold ground in a marshy area. The criminals were discovered too. They are 20-year-old brothers Victor and Anatoliy Snopkovs, workers by profession, who had become addicted to anasha (a locally produced narcotic drug). The investigation is in progress. The boy was hospitalized and his condition is now satisfactory.

A series of measures was taken in Kazakhstan recently to combat crime. Amendments were introduced into the legislation stipulating that alcoholism, drug addiction and parasitism are to be considered as aggravating circumstances when a law court metes our punishment for other criminal offences.

POLITBURO ON COOPERATIVES, ARTISTS, PARTY CONTROL

LD051850 Moscow TASS in English 1835 GMT 5 Feb 87

[Text] Moscow February 5 TASS -- The Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, at its today's meeting, discussed and endorsed the measures worked out by the government on the basis of the decisions of the 27th party congress and the January plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee, to create cooperatives in the spheres of the manufacture of consumer goods, services and catering.

It was noted at the meeting that cooperatives are called upon to meet fuller the population's requirements for catering, services and consumer goods, supplementing the existing system of state enterprises and organizations in these spheres.

The Politburo meeting discussed the question of improving the conditions for the activity of creative workers' unions. The CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers adopted a resolution which outlines measures for the further intensification of the work of writers', cinematographers', composers', theatrical workers' and artists' unions, for the consolidation of the material and technical base of these unions, housing construction, construction of clubs, as well as upgrading of the publishing business, popularisation of literature and arts.

The Political Bureau endorsed a resolution of the CPSU Central Committee, the Council of Ministers of the USSR, the All-Union Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions, and the Central Committee of the Young Communist League on further development of amateur technical art activities.

The results of the work of the Party Control Committee (PCC) under the CPSU Central Committee in 1986 were discussed. It was pointed out that the PCC enhanced control over the implementation of the decisions of the 27th Congress of the CPSU and the Central Committee on key matters concerning socio-economic development, the strengthening of party and state discipline, the assertion of the Leninist norms of party life, and work to overcome negative phenomena.

The Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee discussed some other matters pertaining to organisational work to secure the implementation of the decisions of the January (1987) plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee, party and state development, as well as matters related to foreign-policy activities aimed at ensuring peace and peoples' security.

ZALYGIN: NO ONE INTENDS TO PUBLISH SOLZHENITSYN

LD061324 Moscow TASS in English 1255 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Paris March 6 TASS -- "As far as I know, no one now intends to publish Solzhenitsyn's works in the Soviet Union", Sergey Zalygin, editor-in-chief of the NOVYY MIR literary journal, who is currently in the French capital at the invitation of the Editions de la Table Ronde publishing firm, told a TASS correspondent today.

It was precisely to him that the Western press recently ascribed a sensational announcement that Solzhenitsyn's novel "Cancer Ward" was being ostensibly prepared for publication in the NOVYY MIR journal.

Touching upon this question, the NOVVY MIR editor-in-chief said: "Over the past half year I have given interviews to a hundred journalists. However, I could not make such statements which are being ascribed to me, if only for copyright.

JOURNAL TO PUBLISH MORE 'FORGOTTEN AUTHORS'

LD051020 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] News of literature. Our correspondent Viktorina Derzhavina is at the microphone:

[Derzhavina] Today, esteemed comrade radio listeners, we arrived at the offices of the OGONEK journal. Recently, this journal has been publishing many works by forgotten authors. These have given rise to a great deal of interest among readers.

Our conversation with Vladimir Petrovich Yenisherlov, member of the editorial board of the journal and literary critic, is about this. Vladimir Petrovich, please go ahead.

[Yenisherlov] OGONEK will shortly publish several works of this kind. I would like to mention, for instance, Marina Ivanovna Tsvetayeva's large essay, devoted to Valeriy Bryusov, being published in the USSR for the first time and entitled: Hero of Labor [geroy truda]. It is Tsvetayeva's prose at its most brilliant, very analytical and very expressive. It may be somewhat subjective, but, all the same, Bryusov's picture emerges from Tsvetayeva's essay in its full stature, larger than life and in an extraordinarily interesting manner.

We also intend to soon publish the interesting recollections about Andrey Belyy, the remarkable Russian poet, prose-writer and specialist in the study of literature. Andrey Belyy was one of the founder members of the Union of Writers. The recollections about Andrey Belyy have been written by Margarita Kirillovna Morozova, heroine of the poem, His First Date [ego pervoye svidaniye].

Among OGONEK publications which, in our view, ought to attract the readers' attention, are several small stories by the Leningrad writer Leonid Ivanovich Dobychin. The fate of this writer was tragic. His stories are short, precise and very expressive, and somehow bring to mind Zoshchenko's stories.

Dimitriy Sergeyevich Likhachev has recently spoken highly of Dobychin, having called for his works to be published. The publication of Dobychin's stories in our journal is preceded by an article, recollections [vospominaniya], by Marina Nikolayevna Chukovskaya, who know Dobychin well. This is what Marina Nikolayevna Chukovskaya writes: It may well be that these short stories will initially seem monotonous, but, right from the very first page, these concise and precise phrases mercilessly deride man's vulgarity and stupidity. It seems to me we shall restore Dobychin's name and, following our publication, we intend to issue a small collection of his stories in the OGONEK series library.

Our journal is currently working on an extensive article: An interview with Lev Nikolayevich Gumilev, prominent Soviet historian and author of very original works on our country's history, a very unique man, polemicist and an extraordinarily interesting scientist. Lev Nikolayevich Gumilev talks about himself and about his parents. He is the son of Nikolay Stepanovich Gumilev and Anna Andreyevna Akhmatova; he talks about his views on history and on the ties between history and literature.

In one of the issues of our journal, we intend to publish Akhmatova's poem Requiem [Rekviem], which begins with this epigraph:

No, it was not under an alien vault of heaven,
Nor under alien wings;
I was there with my people,
There where my people, unfortunately, was,

We are trying to speak the truth about the past, since, without knowing the truth about the past, it is impossible to move forward to the future.

There should not be forgotten names in our history. There should be no forgotten writers in our literature and it is precisely this -- to restore historical truth -- that represents one of the directions to our journal's work.

This does not mean we do not deal with modern literature; stories by prominent and young Soviet prosaicists will be published in each of our issues. Numerous selections of the poems by Soviet poets have been prepared by our journal. In any case, OGONEK will, as the saying goes, keep its finger on the pulse of the time, on the pulse of literary life and, I hope, it is this that will make it interesting to our readers.

VOSNESENKIY ON 'REVOLUTION BY CULTURE'

PM050925 Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian 21 Feb 87 p 7

["Extracts from Speech to the Moscow Forum" by A. Voznesenskiy: "Before the Junction of the Centuries"]

[Excerpt] At this time before the vertebrae of two millenia connect, at this perhaps fateful time before the destruction of civilization and culture, when there will be neither millenia nor man at all, I turn to you while we are still alive, my brothers in culture, not to sermonize to you but to confide in you. It is not the "fatherland that is in danger" today but "man who is in danger," man -- the crown of creation.

The honeybees of culture [pchely kultury] are today the measuring instrument of conscience and humanity in the world. The holes in the stratosphere's ozone layer totaling one million square meters, the Chernobyl cloud, and the acid rain of the Rhine obliterate states' conventional geographical boundaries. A drop in the level of freedom, humanity, or culture at any point on the earth, just as in a case of radiation, causes a drop in the level at any other point on the globe, and vice versa.

During one far-off golden autumn, one "Indian summer," I was a guest at the holiday cottage of Arthur Miller and Inga Morath. Do you remember that time, Inga? Do you remember that day when some degenerate, some maniac put razor blades in apples given to children at Halloween. I wrote a poem about it. It was published by THE NEW YORK TIMES. Miller embraced me. The poem was not just about that incident in America but about humanity.

That autumn they were in Peredelkino. They learned on arrival about a crime committed in the Crimea, where a handful of monstrous people dug up the bodies of 12,000 victims of Hitlerite genocide to smash their skulls and extract gold fillings. [paragraph continues]

They were the same kind of monsters as the Americans who put razor blades in childrens' apples. Since the poem there has now been erected in the Crimea a memorial to the victims of the genocide. That would have been impossible earlier.

If I had not written about it, perhaps someone else would have, because there is no such thing as another's misfortune.

There has now resurfaced here the Russian concept of "glasnost," which tries to make active confiding and an active conscience into the norm, a concept which was given birth in the language of Tolstoy and develops his idea about countering evil by an active conscience. Norman Mailer already uses this work without translating it, just like the word "sputnik." Countering evil by confiding in one another. This is essential for the whole world now.

During a difficult period in his life Boris Pasternak, who is a major world poet, wrote an article in defense of peace called "To Friends in the East and West," which I can give to you. It was as if written for our forum. He could not publish it during those grim times, but it has been published now. It is as if it were written about our own time: "Do you do not expect changes from us and suppose that we have stagnated? Do you think we are merely renaming cities and are incapable of further improvements or alterations?"

The day before yesterday we, Friends of Pasternak and Culture on the Pasternak Legacy Commission, which consists of poets, writers, actors, and cultural figures, decided that it was necessary to rescind the decision to exclude Pasternak from membership in the Union of Writers. (On 19 February the USSR Union of Writers Secretariat examined the commission's proposal and rescinded the 1958 decision to exclude Pasternak from membership of the USSR Union of Writers -- A.V.). It is necessary to publish the novel "Doctor Zhivago," a victim of the epoch of "anti-glasnost", it is necessary to turn the dacha where the great poet lived and created into a museum where Pasternak readings and international conferences can be held; it is necessary to submit to UNESCO the idea of declaring 1990 Pasternak Year (there are 14 points in all). To realize all this inertia must still be combatted. This would have been absolutely impossible a couple of years back.

I will add the following: You see around you welcoming smiles, beautiful architectural monuments, but do not think all is peace and harmony here. I want poeple to understand the present dramatic content of our life and the difficult new revolutionary process taking place within it. A spiritual revolution is taking place here, a mortal combat, a struggle on the part of new thinking against a reactionary inert stratum which is still very strong. It is not a "cultural revolution" but a revolution by culture [latter two words published in English]. I do not want to say everything is already in order, but the process is under way, and it is heading in the right direction. It is a difficult, arduous route, but we will not swerve from it.

This is not just our publishing Renaissance, when we are printing Navokov, Khodasevich, Gumilev, and the books of present-day writers such as th Rybakov novel which languished in a drawer, but a time of sharp, direct criticism of bureaucracy on television and a return to the forgotten philosophy of man's inner world. Try and buy the new magazines now, there are none, the people are buying up these serious publications, voting thereby for revolution by culture. This is a struggle to democratize all spheres of life — elections, legal and economic processes, and so forth. The goal is not dogmatic formulas repeated ad nauseam, but man, the individual, common human values.

Many of us have seen the film Repentance. It is not just a story about the crimes of a certain period, it is a film about the psychology of despotism and inhumanity in general and is thus something close to us. Repentance is now showing at Moscow's premier move houses, rather than political kitsch of the Rambo type. (Although I am not saying that we do not make trashy films).

The West today has the powerful art of Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Max Frisch, Graham Greene, Woody Allen, Allen Ginsberg, Alberto Moravia, Milos Forman, Gore Vidal, William Styron, and Artur Lundkvist available to it, art that stimulates thought and represents a spiritual summit.

When 10 million copies of Pushkin's collected works and 100,000 copies of Khlenbnidov are published here and are immediately bought up it halts the extinction of culture throughout the world, and perhaps you will then buy millions of copies of Eliot and Blake.

All this is done not by God, not by someone on our behalf, but by everyone, but by us. The actor M. Ulyanov, the director E. Klimov, each one of us. I have refused in recent months many interesting foreign invitations of a creative nature to go to Italy, Switzerland, Greece, India, and so forth. There is much work at home now and much assistance can be given. Recently, for example, I went to Vitebsk, where the house of Chagall has been preserved. Today we spoke about this with (Bel Kaufman). We are now working to set up the first Chagall Museum here and restore the great master's art to the country in which he was born and where he has been absurdly banned. This would have been impossible 1 year ago, and even now it is still not easy. Over there in the fifth row sits Irina Aleksandrovna Antonova, a devotee of culture. I can see in my mind's eye the exhibition of Chagall paintings due to take place in July at the Pushkin Museum, which she runs. I hope the exhibition will take place and I will be able to invite all of you to the exhibition in Moscow and Vitebsk, to invite all of you not only to come but to help us -- those of you who have any of the master's works bring them to be shown. This is the common task of culture.

I could also tell you about the exhibitions of new painting by young people and the explosion in the standard of Soviet rock music -- the main thing is that the process of democratization is under way, much that is productive has already been done and much still remains to be done, but the process is, I hope, irreversible.

What can hinder us? Not only the monstrous deadweight of bureaucracy and the vacuity of old inert thinking. I hope our people will overcome them. The nuclear arms race, the absurd fruit of backward, reactionary thinking, could negate everything and destroy not only our Renaisance but also man as a species altogether. [passage omitted]

THEATER WORKERS UNION ELECTS LEADERSHIP

PM101527 Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian 5 Mar 87 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Plenum of the USSR Theater Workers Union Board"]

[Text] The USSR Theater Workers Union Board has held its second plenum. K. Yu. Lavrov, chairman of the USSR Theater Workers Union Board, read a report on the union's draft statute. [paragraph continues]

The report also detailed tasks of the association of theatrical art workers in the light of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum and the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolution "On Improving the Conditions for Creative Unions' Activity."

Secretaries of the Board were elected. The Secretariat is made up as follows: O.N. Yefremov (first secretary), A.V. Bartoshevich, E.N. Gugushvili, Yu.I. Yefremov M.A. Zakharov, R.M. Merabov, G.A. Tovstonogov, V.I. Shadrin (organizational secretary), and M.F. Shatrov.

The plenum approved the draft statute, which will be published in the press for the purpose of broad discussion by the theatrical public.

It was decided to convene an all-union conference in the first half of the year to adopt the statute, which will then come into legal force.

Yu.P. Voronov, chief of the CPSU Central Committee Culture Section; Ye.V. Zaytsev, first deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee Culture Section; and M.A. Gribanov, USSR first deputy minister of culture; took part in the plenum's work.

NEW THEATER DIRECTOR TO UTILIZE 'RESTRUCTURING'

LD091741 Moscow TASS in English 1724 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 9 TASS -- Nikolay Gubenko, a well-known Soviet actor and film director, has become new chief director of the Taganka Drama Theatre in Moscow.

Gubenko is not a newcomer to Taganka, where he debuted as an actor and played in the theatre's first production "The Good Woman of Setzuan" staged to the work of Bertold Brecht in 1964. He later appeared in many Taganka plans.

Gubenko never lost touch with Taganka and continued playing there even when he switched to cinematography in the 1970s-1980s. He made such famous films as "The Orphans", "And Life, and Love and Tears", "Episodes From Lives of Holiday-makers".

Gubenko told a TASS correspondent that he was going to preserve all the best which had been done at the threatre under its previous directors, including the late Anatoly Efros.

"We will continue to develop the traditions which made our plays so artistically singular and brought us wide recognition in the 1960s and 1970s", Gubenko said.

"In the first place, I'm talking about the pronounced civic spirit of our theatre, its interest in social problems and ability to respond to them".

Gubenko is going to use all the broad opportunities offered to artists by the present restructuring of Soviet society and the experiment involving the management of theatres. He is planning to show "Boris Godunov", which was staged to Pushkin's drama of the same name several years ago but has not yet been performed.

CORRECTION TO KAZAKHSTAN REVOKES BROADCAST AWARD

The item headlined "Kazakhstan Revokes Broadcast Official's Award," published in the 4 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT on page R 7 was inadvertently published out of order. The full page should be corrected to read:

"'It is interesting to observe how hatred brought to boiling point has given rise to both great talent. When the author devotes his stories to a topic unknown to him, they lack artistry...

"'On the other hand, the greater part of the book is devoted to topics which Arkadiy Averchenko knows excellently and through which he was lived, thought, and felt, depicts with striking talent the impressions and sentiments of representative of the old, rich, overeating and overeaten Russia of landowners and factory owners.'

"In general, the future of the writer is quite complex and contradictory, yet we are publishing Averchenko. In considerable degree thanks to Lenin's assessment, which was made both with tongue in cheek and with irony, and even with sarcasm, and at the end of which there is also this line: 'In my view, some stories deserve to be reprinted. Talent must be encouraged.'

"Of course, the aforementioned authors also deserve critical analysis and socially accurate assessment (alas, it does always accompany the present publications). This is how we could have acted in our case."

G. Orekhanova then proceeds to cite a 1,000-word extract from a book on Russian emigres abroad by Lev Lyubimov, who emigrated from Russia in 1924 and returned 25 years later, in which he assesses the merits of writers such as Nabokov and Khodasevich. The final point which he makes in this extract is as follows: "Only writers who emigrated from Russia when they were already great masters were able to sustain (and then not always) a standard worthy of great Russian literature away from the motherland."

This is followed by a further 300-word commentary by G. Orekhanova, who concludes: "The present publications in Soviet periodicals of works by emigre writers in no way put in the shade the pride of our own Soviet literature -- M. Gorkiy, V. Mayakovskiy, A. Blok, S. Yesenin, M. Sholokhov, K. Fedin, L. Leonov, A. Tvardovskiy... They only emphasize how strong our country has become today, having proclaimed a solicitous attitude to any representative of Russian culture."

KAZAKHSTAN REVOKES BROADCAST OFFICIAL'S AWARD

LD031646 Alma-Ata Domestic Service in Kazakh 1500 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Kazakh SSR Supreme Soviet Presidum has resolved to agree with the submission of the Kazakh SSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting, the management of Kazakhtelefilm studio, party, trade union and komsomol organizations to revoke the Kazakh SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decree 28 November 1978 awarding the honorary title of merited worker of arts of the Kazakh SRR to Akhmetov, in connection with his embezzlement of state funds and concealing personal data when he was appointed director of the studio and admitted to the party. (correcting order and date of item)

TALYZIN ADDRESSES PLANNING LEADERS' COURSE

PM101015 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Cadres' Study"]

[Text] Classes with leaders of the central planning organs have ended at the USSR Council of Ministers Academy of the National Economy institute for improving the qualifications of leaders of the top echelon of state management.

Chairmen of the republic gosplans and the Moscow Gorispolkom and leaders of the economic sections of the RSFSR Council of Ministers Administration of Affairs followed a special program of study of topical problems of the economic theory and practice of restructuring the work of planning organs with a consideration for the tasks of the economic reform, the improvement of the economic mechanism on the basis of economic methods of management, and the acceleration of socioeconomic development in the light of the decisions of the 27th party congress and the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum.

The students were addressed by N.V. Talyzin candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and chairman of the USSR Gosplan; V.P. Mozhin, first deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee Economic Section; USSR Council of Ministers Deputy Chairmen Yu.P. Batalin, L.A. Voronin, and V.M. Kamentsev; M.A. Korolev, chief of the USSR Central Statistical Administration; V.S. Pavlov, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Prices; M.S. Zotov, chairman of the board of the USSR Bank for Financing Capital Investments; M.V. Kovalev, chairman of the Belorussian SSR Council of Ministers; P.M. Katsura and V.V. Kossov, leading workers of the apparatus of the USSR Council of Ministers; P.P. Anisimov and L.B. Vid, leading workers of the USSR Gosplan; L.A. Kostin and N.V. Garetovskiy, first deputy leaders of central economic and financial organs; USSR Academy of Sciences Academicians A.G. Aganbegyan, A.I. Anchishkin, T.I. Zaslavskaya, and N.N. Moiseyev; V.A. Tikhonov, member of the V.I. Lenin All-union Order of Lenin Academy of Agricultural Sciences; USSR Academy of Sciences Corresponding members L.I. Abalkin, P.G. Bunich, and M.N. Rutkevich, and academy professors and teachers.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ON QUALITY CONTROL

LD051800 Moscow TASS in English 1712 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 5 TASS -- TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov writes:

The state quality control service introduced at 1,500 Soviet machine-building enterprises from the beginning of this year set a reliable barrier to inferior products, which had earlier been accepted almost with a hitch. 60 Percent of these enterprises have not fulfilled the plan for January, as a result, the data of the Bureau for Machine-Building at the USSR Council of Ministers shows.

Flow lines of the biggest plants, such as, for instance, the "Kamaz" which manufactures heavy-duty trucks and the Belorussian "Gomselmash" amalgamation producing fodder harvesting combines were stopped on the demand of representatives of quality control services more than once in the past winter. "Without such stoppages there will be no acceleration now," holds Georgiy Kolmogorov, the chairman of the USSR State Committee for Standards who is in charge of the state quality control system.

Active forms of influencing the quality of poducts are a result of the switch from administrative methods to predominantly economic methods of the management of the national economy implemented in the country now. The state quality control system is is charged not only with placing a barrier to inferior goods, but also with organising work to remedy the flaws discovered. Excellent specialists are in the groups of quality control. "The first two months of the operation of quality control showed that the state of affairs with quality is, naturally, the best where quality was always good and also at enterprises which have prepared for work in a new way."

Thus, a Moscow's "Frezier" instrument-making plant only a quarter of products had at first been accepted by state quality control groups. The percentage of accepted goods is 90 percent now that infringements of technological regulations have been overcome. And in conditions of cost-accounting the work collective of a plant has a material incentive for manufacturing quality products: There are less fines for substandard goods, there is no need to remedy flaws, hence the productivity of work, incomes of the enterprises, wages of workers increased.

CSA FIGURES ON PUBLIC COMSUMPTION FUNDS NOTED

LD040957 Moscow TASS in English 0817 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 4 TASS -- According to the Central Statistical Board of the USSR, last year every citizen of our country, be that a baby or an old man, received a total of 547 roubles (one rouble is equal approximately to 1.3 U.S. dollars) from the so-called public consumption funds, in payments, services and benefits, paid in the USSR irrespective of one's labour record.

From public consumption funds the state pays for what is granted to the population free of charge (medical aid, education, etc). Stipends and various allowances are also paid from these funds. Free of charge or discount health resort vouchers are also allocated from these funds.

The sum of payments from the public consumption funds in the USSR is steadily on the rise. Last year it increased by 6,000 million roubles on the whole in the country, to reach 153,000 million roubles. In 1960 it was only a little over 27,000 million roubles.

The main source of incomes of the Soviet population is certainly the wage, which accounts, on the average, for over two-thirds of the family budget, and in low-income families with many children it approaches to a half, the rest coming from public consumption fund.

These funds have enabled realisation of the Soviet man's important socio-economic rights, enshrined in the USSR's constitution -- free medical attendance and education, upgrading of qualification and old age social security, rest and other rights. Besides, public consumption funds promote attainment of a high extent of social equality in the country.

OFFICIAL REPORTS JOINT ENTERPRISE AGREEMENTS

LD122050 Moscow TASS in English 1959 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 12 TASS -- Soviet organisations held with foreign firms negotiations on over 100 joint enterprise projects. The negotiations on approximately ten projects are close to completion, constituent documents are ready for two projects and will be submitted to the Soviet Government to take decision.

This has been learnt by a TASS correspondent from Yuriy Dremov, head of the joint enterprises' department of the Foreign Trade Ministry of the USSR, who asked him to share his thoughts following the negotiations.

Our partners do not always clearly conceive our requirements to a joint enterprise. The first requirement is that its products should be absolutely new and have a Soviet and world market. We declined, for instance, the proposal to establish an enterprise to manufacture outdated copying equipment.

A self-financed enterprise needs to export its products to have currency for mutual accounts and not to have problems on the ground of the rouble being not hard currency. There is no "discrimination" or joint enterprises. It is the state strategy in the USSR to see all enterprises becoming self-financed. Its aim is that every Soviet enterprise should function on the earnings, including currency, it gets for its products. And the joint enterprise shouldn't hope for getting currency from the state.

Western propagandists say that through joint enterprises we allegedly try to resolve problems of new technologies. They forget about the USSR's huge scientific and technical potential.

1,563 American patents have been registered in the USSR by January 1, 1986, and 5,332 Soviet patents -- in the United States. Over the past five years Soviet organisations sold 18 licences in the United States and purchased only five. The USSR sells such newest technologies as aluminum pouring in magnetic field, contact welding of pipelines, etc. Joint enterprises, therefore, could be mutually beneficial both to the USSR and western firms.

There are many questions about the procedure of joint enterprise personnel employment and discharge. In accordance with Soviet legislation, this procedure is regulated by the collective bargaining agreement concluded by the administration and the trade union organisation of the enterprise, and Yuriy Dremov. The agreement provides for the administration to stop poor work and indiscipline. A worker can be discharged only if the trade union gives consent.

BRIEFS

NEW ARCTIC SEAPORT -- Leningrad, 11 March (TASS) -- Blocks of ice will be the main building material for moorings at a new sea port in the Soviet Arctic. It has been designed by Leningrad specialists engaged in developing the transport infrastructure of the northern sea route from the Atlantic to the Pacific along the Eurasian coastline. Canadian builders were the pioneers in creating ports of this kind. The port, on the estuary of the River Kharasavey on the Yamal Peninsula, will bear the brunt of the influx of freight for the high-capacity natural gas extraction center that is being set up in the uninhabited tundra. Deposits have been discovered here that will become the country's main raw material base in the next, the 13th five year plan period. [Excerpt] [Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1115 GMT 11 Mar 87 LD]

MURAKHOVSKIY CITED ON AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION

PM131132 Paris LE FIGARO in French 11 Mar 87 p 18

[Interview with Vsevolod Murakhovskiy, deputy chairman of USSR Council of Ministers, by Daniel Tacet in Paris; date not given]

[Text] [Tacet] One of the crucial questions now facing the Western nations is whether the Soviet Union will achieve self-sufficiency in food and, if so, how soon. The balance of trade depends on it. What is the Soviet Government's position on this?

[Murakhovskiy] The 27th congress announced a bold program of economic development. The development of agriculture is essential. We started a long time ago. It is a priority. Our aim is to achieve self-sufficiency in 5 years' time. This means that by then we will have found the means not only to feed our own population directly but also to provide the necessary solutions for livestock feeding.

[Tacet] How do you explain the lag in agricultural development compared to the most major nations, which now produce a large surplus?

[Murakhovskiy] World War II drained us. Priority was given to rebuilding the cities and modernizing industry. We neglected agriculture to the extent of foregoing the necessary infrastructures for rural development, so that we are now short of roads. But in regions where we have been efficient, such as Belorussia, the socialist economy has fulfilled its promise. Performance is similar to that achieved in the West, whether in grain, potatoes, meat, or milk.

[Tacet] Can you achieve self-sufficiency on your own?

[Murakhovskiy] We hope to multiply accords with Western countries supplying technology that can aid our development. We are in favor of an international division of labor. We can both export and import. Mikhail Gorbachev has just reaffirmed that foreign trade is like a two-way road: It must benefit both sides.

For the present we are mainly interested in establishing joint ventures now that the legal framework for them exists. Thus we are inviting the French to submit proposals to us in all fields in which we are customers. Rhone-Poulenc, Pechiney, and, in other sectors, Thomson are already involved, and we have asked Jean-Baptiste Doumeng to examine ways of modernizing our sugar refineries. Anything is possible if our Western partners so wish it. We are open to any proposals, in the knowledge that our needs are very specific. But yet again all cooperation requires mutual benefit. In the agricultural field our priorities are agricultural equipment, mineral fertilizers, and crop protection agents. At the same time we intend to develop our processing industry.

[Tacet] Do you intend to develop private enterprise to the detriment of state enterprise?

[Murakhovskiy] Our development will not be to the detriment of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes, because in our country the workers and employees of these structures can, if they so wish, have their own private plot. [paragraph continues]

Some inhabitants of cities and industrial centers also cultivate fruit and vegetables and rear livestock and poultry. But it is the kolkhozes and sovkhozes that provide most of our agricultural produce. They cultivate 550 million hectares. Of land, whereas private plots account for on 7.6 millon hectares. This is why we are surprised to see the western press talking about the Soviets' private plots and minimizing the important of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes. Our private farms are very different from French farms: In the USSR farm land belongs to the state and activities on private plots are closely linked to work in the kolkhozes, which provide 30 percent of the produce currently sold on the open market. But there is no contradiction between collective and private farms. The state encourages both systems.

[Tacet] Why have the major contracts with European countries been reached not between states but via Jean-Baptiste Doumeng's company?

[Murakhovskiy] We have known the Interagra Companyfor many years. We enjoy fruitful and mutual advantageous cooperation. Mr Doumeng recently submitted a number of proposals for expanding economic, scientific, and technological ties in the field of agro-industrial production. These suggestions have resulted in an agreement in principle on cooperation in the construction in the USSR of a linen processing plant, the establishment of a joint company for the cultivation and processing of sweet corn and beans, and the organization of a joint company for the cultivation of hybrid corn and sunflower seed. There are other projects too. Mr Doumeng is a reliable partner with whom we can develop long-term ties on mutually advantageous bases.

CSA REPORTS ON SEED AVAILABILITY, QUALITY

LD122249 Moscow TASS in English 2219 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 12 TASS -- The Central Statitical board of the USSR has issued a report on the availability and quality of seeds of cereal and industrial crops by March 1. The farms of 55 autonomous republics, areas and regions of the Russian Federation are fully provided with the seeds of cereal spring crops for the spring sowing campaign, the reports says.

Some farms, however, are insufficiently provided with seeds of spring cereal crops -- from 82 to 98 percent.

By the beginning of March the quality of seeds of spring crops was somewhat better as compared with the previous years. There are now 14 percent more first-class seeds of spring cereal and leguminous crops (without maize), than in 1985, and 4 percent more than in 1986.

The farms of 25 territories of the Russian Federation are provided with seed potatoes 100 percent. Separate farms have an insufficient quantity of seed potatoes and at some farms seed potatoes are non-existent at all since they perished in storage.

SCIENTIST EXPLAINS PION PROJECT IN SPACE

LD121502 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Summary] Cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Laveykin have been studying space technology aboard their station, in particular experiments on the PION-M installation. Professor (Leonid Vasiliyevich Leskov) explains what the PION experiment is. It is nothing to do with flowers as some listeners seem to think, he says. The acronym stands for Pribor Dlya Issledovaniya Obsobennostey Nevesomosti [Instrument for the Study of the Characteristics of Weightlessness] and the instrument has been used in orbit since 1981 on the Salyut-6 mission; the PION aboard the Mir station is a modification of this first PION. The aim of the PION is to study the processes occurring in weightlessness by which semiconductor materials, alloys, crystals, and corundum are obtained in space. Experiments have shown that specimens of various inorganic materials can be obtained in weightlessness whose properties are better than those of analogous specimens obtained on earth; however in certain cases these properites have turned out to be worse then in earth-obtained specimens, and this is why the peculiarities of weightlessness have indeed to be studied. The PION was therefore created to study the dynamics of the process of heat- and mass-transfer, and of crystallization. Thus, this first research laboratory aboard the station is helping to form the scientific basis of a future production in space of materials and to obtain new fundamental data for different scientific disciplines which cannot be obtained on Earth.

So, when can we talk of the first industrial production process in space, for example, to obtain semiconductor materials, alloys, or super-pure geological substances? Work in this field is going on very actively now: In the USSR, aboard the Salyut-7, successful tests were carried out on the world's first installation for industrial test production of semiconductor materials -- the Korund device. In all probability this frontier will be crossed about 1990.

VELIKHOV ON NEUTRINO RADIATION DISCOVERY

LD111435 Moscow TASS in English 1426 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS -- Soviet and Italian physicists recorded neutrino radiation, which lasted a mere seven seconds. That discovery of major scientific importance, made on February 23, 1987, was reported by Yevgeniy Velikhov, vice president of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, at the general meeting of the academy taking place in Moscow.

The neutrino radiation was recorded by a unit jointly built at a depth of 5,200 metres under Mt Monblan. It consists of 72 liquid scintillators, which are instruments designed to detect neutrino radiation from collapsing stars (stars rapdily contracting under the influence of gravitation).

Simultaneously, the academician said, astronomers recorded a flare of a supernova in the large Magellanic cloud. It was a blue supergiant at a distance of 50 kiloparsecs from earth. The flare, specialists think, was caused most probably by the impact of a strong blast wave on the shell of the star, which could cause the unusual heating of star matter and its emanation.

Velikhov linked the two phenomena -- the flare of the supernova and neutrino radiation -- and said that the observations would make it possible to learn more about the laws of the universe.

MARSHAL KURKOTKIN INTERVIEWED ON ARMY, NAVY DAY

PM111521 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 22 Feb 87 p 4

[Interview with Marshal of the Soviet Union S.K. Kurkotkin, USSR deputy defense minister, by special correspondent V. Kiselev, slated for Soviet Army and Navy Day: "'We Can Hold Our Ground'" -- date and place of interview not given]

[Text] He was born into a peasant family. His father had walked behind the plow. And so had his grandfather. And his great grandfather... Yet he chose a different course. In 1937 he enrolled at the Orel Armored Troops College. He has been in the service for 50 years. "An extraordinarily resolute, energetic, and strong-willed commander," read a letter of decoration during the Great Patriotic War. Now Semen Konstantinovich Kurkotkin is marshal of the Soviet Union, USSR deputy defense minister, commander of the Rear Services of the USSR Armed Forces. Today, on the eve of Soviet Army and Navy Day, we publish an interview with him by a SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA special correspondent.

A large, solid desk. There are no superfluous objects on it. A writing set, a stack of writing paper, document files, mail that has just come in. A clock is ticking away quietly reminding us that time is valued here. To one side there is a small table with telephones, the dull eyes of a switchboard, a CRT, a large globe in the corner, maps on the walls and on a special stand. And another table, a long one, for about 60 people, for meetings. The office of a major military leader.

Marshal Kurkotkin has a firm, energetic handshake, penetrating eyes, and a mop of grey hair. The star of a Hero of the Soviet Union gleams above his multicolored order ribbons. Semen Konstantinovich's answers are laconic.

[Kurkotkin] A leader of any rank who wants to know the real state of affairs must not sit in his office all the time. I am just as much at home in an aircraft or a train as in my office chair. I frequently visit the troops. And I always talk to the men, I ask them about their lives, their thoughts, and their day-to-day concerns. I have just come back from Sevastopol, where I attended a fleet Komsomol conference. I visited one of the cruisers, a school for frogmen, and a marine unit.

[Kiselev] Semen Konstantinovich, a private or a sergeant doing his military service is a very young person, he may feel overawed in front of a marshal. And judging by my own experience of service in the Navy I must say that if something was not quite right, one would not have admitted it...

[Kurkotkin] You are quite right, it is quite natural for a Russian serviceman not to want to let down his commander. This is laudable, but it must not be abused. After all, military service is not a bed of roses. There are more than enough stresses and strains. And as for men possibly feeling overawed, I am well aware of it, after all, I am no greenhorn when it comes to the Army, and I have my ruses. I'll give you an example. I never ask a serviceman directly whether it is cold in the barracks at night. I just inquire whether he sleeps under a blanket or whether he also uses his greatcoat to cover himself up. And I have the whole picture.

[Kiselev] Semen Konstantinovich, are these concerns not too trifling for a marshal?

[Kurkotkin] Don't say that. After all, it is "trifles" like these which make up the standard of combat readiness. Military leaders draw arrows on maps. But it is the servicemen who implement the strategy. Through marshes and across mountain passes, waist-deep in snow. And if necessary, they give their lives for the motherland. How could you, on top of all that, feed them badly and not deliver their mail on time. What kind of morale would there be among the soldiers, what view would they take of their commanders?

On the contrary, questions of the servicemen's day-to-day conditions are of paramount importance. Even during the war we did not neglect this. For instance, an attack is planned for 0800 hours in the morning. You must make sure to feed people at 0500 hours. And not just anyhow, you must give them a hot meal. The standard report to the command center was as follows: "The brigade is ready for attack, the men have been given a hot meal." Or another example. On one of the fronts during the Belorussian operation the tobacco ran out. There simply was not any. So some was rushed in from beyond the Urals.

No, we did not accept the formula "war accounts for everything." And if someone seemed to take this kind of attitude, we put an end to it quickly. [Kurkotkin ends]

Kurkotkin was on the fronts of the Great Patriotic War from September 1941 to May 1945. He began as a political officer of a tank company of an independent reconnaissance battalion and ended up as commander of the 13th Guards Shepetovsko-Ternopolskaya Red Banner Brigade.

[Kurkotkin] I was serving in the Transbaykal region, in Chita. It was an uneasy time. We commanders and political officers knew that war was inevitable. Lake Khasan, Halhin Gol, Spain drowning in blood... All links in a single chain. Nonetheless, deep down, despite everything we were hoping... Then out of the blue it came!

I remember June 22. It was a clear sunny day. Shortly before my wife had arrived from Moscow. I felt on top of the world. I went to a soccer match. Suddenly, at the soccer pitch, it was announced over the public address system that we were at war. People looked aghast. We officers set off at a trot to our units. Indeed, that sunny Sunday turned into a black day for the whole nation. Many trials and tribulations were to follow. Soon we were loaded onto railroad flatcars and dispatched to the front, near Leningrad.

To begin with we operated mostly on foot. There is not much scope for anything else in the woods and marshes. Later on, by spring 1942, we began to receive T-34S and KVS -- the best tanks of that time... The frontline soldiers will forever remain indebted to the boys who stood on boxes in front of the machine tools to be able to reach the levers and to the women who sometimes did not leave the factories for days. The rear services, denying themselves everything, sent first-class hardware and weapons to the front. When we were at Voronezh, for instance, the fascist antitank guns were powerless against the armor of the heavy KV tanks. We crushed them under our tracks. Occasionally, it is true, they would blow off the turret firing at point-blank range. But war is war.

[Kiselev] You were awarded your first order for these battles, were you not?

[Kurkotkin] Yes, the Red Banner. On the northern outskirts of Voronezh I led the battalion into attack eight times. [paragraph continues]

And although there were many more fascists and although they had organized a strong antitank defense, we counted later that we managed to destroy on 1 day alone, 11 July 1942, 4 tanks, an armored vehicle, 31 antitank guns, 11 ordinary guns, 19 mortars, 46 machineguns, 30 dugouts, 11 motor vehicles, and more than 1,000 officers and men, and we burned down a fuel and lubricant depot and routed the headquarters of Hitler's 520th Motorized Battalion. These are the statistics. My boys fought for what they were worth!

There was much hardship. Yet you can get used to a great deal. To the shortages of essentials, for instance. Even to fighting. Inevitably your perception gets blunted with time. Yet one thing you never get used to -- burying your comrades in arms. Recently Major General Petrov, the new deputy chief of chemical troops, came to me with a report. I could see he had something on his mind, he was biting his lips. "Excuse me," he says, "my father was a tanker killed near Shepetovka, the notification papers are signed by Guards Major Kurkotkin. Could that be you?" It all came back to me. Yes, we lost our brigade commander near Shepetovka. A minute piece of shrapnel, no bigger than a pinhead, pierced his heart. The war claimed some outstanding people...

[Kiselev] Semen Konstantinovich, during the Great Patriotic War you were not even 30. Yet you were a tank brigade commander. That is quite some rank. Were young people promoted simply because it was necessary? May be in peacetime it is better to hold people back a little so that they can gain more experience?

[Kurkotkin] Are you asking me who should be appointed to leading posts and how? I believe that young people should not be kept in short pants too long. This was also stated quite clearly at the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum. If people try to convince me that an officer is going to make a good battalion commander because he has a lot of experience as a result of being a company commander for 7 years I have my doubts; 7 years is probably too much. Military service itself, the way in which it is organized, is based on advancement. I believe that this is true also of industry and agriculture.

On the other hand it is true that advancement should not be too hasty. We have some sad experience from the prewar years when yesterday's senior lieutenants were suddenly corps commanders. Gradual growth, this is what we must strive for. So that people advance up the service ladder without missing out rungs. But even here you have to make the right choices. For some people a year is enough to learn a job and to move on while for others 5 years is not enough.

[Kiselev] What qualities, would you say, does a leader need above all?

[Kurkotkin] Conscientiousness. A creative approach. And courage. Yes, courage in particular. A leader must be ready to accept responsibility. In life, unfortunately, there are not just victories. When the Southern Front under the command of R.Ya. Malinovskiy suffered a defeat, the general wrote a report to the supreme commander accepting the blame for what had happened. That was not an easy step to take, it called for great civic courage, but it was an honest step and therefore the only one that Rodion Yakovlevich could take.

When introducing innovations a leader also needs courage. And not just courage in economic matters. Once, when I was presenting the Order of the Labor Red Banner to the collective of a leading plant, the director complained: "We could perform even better if we did not have to cope with so many restrictions and prohibition."

The need to obtain all kinds of authorizations from all levels is a real problem. For instance, we decided to expand one of our hospitals, to build an extension. It turned out that we needed to collect 150 signatures to be able to go ahead. Is all this really necessary? Don't you believe it!

This is also relevant to the question of the qualities which a leader needs to have. At one time it was possible to conceal one's own inadequacy citing various instructions as an excuse. Fortunately, these times are disappearing for ever.

Also I should probably not omit to mention the need to set an example and the need for democratism. During the war we always marched side by side, shoulder to shoulder with our men. And we shared all their joys and troubles. Even though I was a brigade commander I could not claim any privileges for myself. I could not sleep in a bed while my crews slept in tanks. Or have my meals prepared separately, from better ingredients. Using one's power and position to create advantages for oneself is an outrage of the highest order.

[Kiselev] Semen Konstantinovich, you were combat military leader and suddenly you were appointed to head the Rear Services. Frankly speaking, what were your feelings about this appointment?

[Kurkotkin] First of all, let me say that in the Army you do not get offers, you get orders. And I am a military man to the marrow of my bones. And then, it is not a question of my feelings but of the interests of the cause. And it is a complex, difficult, and very responsible one. After all what do the Armed Forces Rear Services represent today? Essentially the whole country.

At one time the section of the formation or battle order which was diametrically opposed to the side from which the enemy was expected was considered to be the rear. Since superlong-range and super-powerful missiles and the latest nuclear charge delivery vehicles have become part of the arsenal, not only troops deployed at the front but also troops deep inside the country can take part in battles. The dividing line between the front and the rear has in fact been obliterated. However, no matter where the forces are deployed, it is necessary to provide them with everything they need. And that means fuel -- the Army is now highly mechanized. Furthermore the troops must be supplied with munitions, fed, clothed, and provided with medical treatment, and repair services for the most complex technological systems must be laid on.

The Rear Services also include all kinds of bases and dumps, all kinds of communication means, hospitals, service enterprises, and even sovhozes. Many thousands of people are involved in servicing tanks, aircraft, and missile complexes and supplying every serviceman with everything he needs.

The Rear Services are very closely connected with the national economy, the Gosplan, and leading ministries.

"In order to wage war, strong and well-organized rear services are needed. Even the best army, even people utterly devoted to the revolution, will be annihilated by the enemy without delay if they are not sufficiently equipped, provided with food, and trained. This is so obvious that it needs no explanation," V.I. Lenin said. We Soviet people have never wanted war but we were always able to hold our ground. And while a threat to peace persists, we will keep our powder dry. And having reliable rear services is half the battle.